The Daily and Weekly Commercial.

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If a person orders his papers discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it, until payment is made, and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

The Courts have decided that refusing to take newspapers or Periodicals from the Postoffice, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

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THE EDITOR.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, December 21, 1876.

Change in Tone of the Democracy.

The expressions of a growing public sentiment as evinced in the meeting of merchants and others having important interests at stake, antagonistic to any other solution of the accidental complications than that of peace, within the past day or two very sensibly brightened the moderate element of the Democratic party in Congress, and has, therefore, engendered a more hopeful feeling amongst people generally. The aggressive wing, or those cry is to rule or ruin, are themselves materially changing their tune. In the evenings at Mr. Hewitt's residence and in a quiet informal caucus for the purpose of harmonizing the variance of views existing even in the ultras and the more moderate wings of the Democratic party, the latter have more and more asserted and sustained their own position in which they agreed to all constitutional legal means to press their pretensions, but opposed to warlike measures for that cause. As a rule, the Northern Democrats are the most radical in

Their Incendiary Propositions.

Their bravado before the conflict and cowardice after, were an enduring lesson to the northern leaders of what they might expect if matters reached the calamitous pass of another war. The cry excited officers, to have some special knowledge of the woes of war, speak rhapsodizing on the contemptuous manner in like threats of their Northern friends brought to their attention. One of these officers, whose deeds in a better cause would have given him imperishable renown, said to-day that so far as the Southern people were concerned, they wished to be let alone to manage their own affairs, to build up their waste places, and to restore their credit; that this would keep the present generation fully occupied. He said the Northern Democrats who had been making such unmistakable talk might as far as he was concerned, settle it in their own way; that he, for his part, would be no fighting, but if there should be no fighting, but if there they might

Fight It Out to Suit Themselves.

He said that he has not forgotten the course of the Northern Democracy sixteen years ago, at the convention at Charleston, they made a great deal of noise and great professions of support, and then headed a bolt. After the election of 1860, they again took the offensive, and assured the Democrats of the South of their undying support. Political excitement was at its height, and everything led to another, until the secession of the States began. The Southern Democrats included and promised co-operation; one after another seceded from the Union, and the last of the Southern States had severed their allegiance. Meanwhile armed organizations had sprung up all over the South, and every effort of opposition had been committed, and thus almost insensibly the South had been led into an open war against the government. At this time, he said, the Northern Democrats were urging them on with promises of co-operation, and this rebel element in Congress can, and did they keep their promises? After the war was over, the North began to arm in the midst of the confidence of peace. Now their time, but what was the fact? Every Northern Democrat who had manhood enough in him to fight joined the ranks of the Government, and were officers and soldiers. Almost the whole of the Northern Democrats hid themselves from out of the country and as far away from the terrible influences, or sought out their friendly soils as possible. And now they come forward again at this day and hour, but to learn something. We despise the cowardly Democrats of the North, and in my opinion the Southern people will show, there would be a strong Republican party in the South, composed of the best element of the people, and we would shake these doughface Democrats. There may be some opposition on the part of a few young men of the South, who do not comprehend the gravity of their temerity, but the substantial sentiment of the moderate element of the southern leaders. We Southerners intend to stand out for ourselves and let the Northern people be responsible for their own acts. If the States's firm to her present moorings, no power on earth, or any combination of the Powers, may be the result of the present political difficulties, there will be no trouble, the Northern invincibles in peace and in war, and we will be very much inclined to order their valuable lives. If the Northern people could hear the views of sober minded and conservative Southern leaders, they would look upon Democrats with derision.

Report of the Inspector General of Steamboats.

James A. Dumont, Supervising Inspector General of Steamboats, has prepared a report for the Secretary of the Treasury of the operations of the Bureau of Supervising Inspectors. It shows that it is attended with great expense, and that its deliberations are futile or no value to the service. For this reason and the opportunity to save several hundred thousand dollars per annum, he recommends the abolition of the Bureau. He says that the service can be just as efficiently administered without as with them, as many instances that have come under his direct with the statutes. Mr. Dumont has not submitted his report to the Secretary of the Treasury, as he desires to make some addition in the way of details.

The Defalcation of W. C. Wall.

The defalcation of William C. Wall, Superintendent of the money order office, Postmaster postoffice, has not been fully reported to the postoffice authorities, so that the facts are not known here. Wall was in the last week.

Today's dispatch was received from Postmaster Negley, announcing that the inspectors and secret agents were instructed to keep up a close lookout for the defaulter, as it was evident that flight was in his direction. The Postoffice Department will have a thorough and prompt investigation made.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 22, 1876.

Wall's Defalcation—The Postmaster the Loser.

The Superintendent of the money order division of the Postoffice, Mr. MacDonald, that the defalcation of W. C. Wall, in Pittsburgh postoffice, mores concerns Postmaster than the department, as he order bonds of thirty thousand dollars the money order office, independent of hundred and twenty thousand dollars count of the postal portion of his du

It has been the uniform of the department to authorize masters at the large cities to make their appointments in the money order ich of their offices, so that the responsibility would rest entirely with them, the ct being thus to prevent any loophole escape of the postmaster by pleading he had no discretion in the appointhis own clerks. For this reason, every application of postmasters to gress for relief from losses sused by the defalcations of clerks has refused. The case of Wall was a surprise to the department. Two ths ago Special Agent Harrison was to the Pittsburgh postoffice to look the accounts of the money order office. he money order division here, an ex- is employed whose sole duty it is to minize the returns of postmasters, an pared with the statements of deposies. It was evident there was some- irregular, from the way in ch the remittances were going down m Pittsburgh, by the surplus after- ing certain expenses sent to Philadel- a. It was observed by the daily state- nt that the receipts were in excess each th. When Harrison was at Pittsburgh, called Major Negley's attention to the dent irregularity. Major Negley said had great confidence in Wall, and expressed a disinclination to remove him. Harrison urged him, for his own security, to rid of Wall. Negley replied h considerable reluctance that he had ample bonds for the protection of the department. Harrison, in report, states the above facts. As the stmaster was omnipotent in the premis, Wall was permitted to remain. ecial Agent Hopkins has gone to Pittsgh to make further investigations. According to a telegram received by the partment, Wall's defalcation is seven thousand seven hundred and twenty llars. This sum is a little more than one week's remittances. When Postmaster Negley was re, about a week ago, he intimated no spicion of Wall. The case has some egular circumstances attending it. One thing is certain, Negley will be held responsible and will be prosecuted for the mount.

The House Members of the Joint Committee.

Speaker Randall to-day appointed the ouse members of the joint committee on unting the electoral vote. The Democratic members are Paine, of Ohio, Hunton, of Virginia, Hewitt, of New York, and Springer, of Illinois; Republicans, Mcary, of Iowa, Hoar, of Massachusetts, nd Willard, of Michigan. With the exption of Paine, Chairman of the committee, the Democratic members represent the aggressive wing of the party, and have repeatedly committed themselves in favor of extreme measures. Hunton is a man of limited education, and served in the rebel army. He is generally entertained ultra opinions on all questions involving the prerogatives of the House in the counting of the electoral vote. Hewitt's views are well known, and he champion of Tilden's cause, he can find no solution of the political problem short of giving the House supreme control and counting Tilden in. Springer believes in the Democratic party, and during the war participated in a conspiracy to release rebel prisoners. His name on the committee gave even more surprise than the others, for it was conceded even by Democrats that no one in the House was less fitted for the place. The Republican members, on the other hand, are of the best material, men of moderation and learning. The House committee met to-night. Speaker Randall were appointed a sub-committee to look up precedents.

A Recount Ordered in Florida.

Senator Conover received a dispatch tonight, stating that the order of the Supreme Court of Florida for a recanvass of the votes of the State, and certificates to be issued in accordance with the face of the returns, will give the State and Congressional offices to the Democrats, but will not affect the Presidential question.

A Denial from Ben. Hill.

Ben. Hill has written a letter to a Georgia paper, in which he denies the statements accredited to him in some of the Northern papers, and in the main repudiates the conciliatory expressions assigned to him. He believes, however, that the Southern people have their own interests to subserve, and in that light it would be better for them not to participate in extreme measures.

The Democratic Programme.

It has been decided by the Democratic Caucus Committee to hold no meetings until after the holidays, when the Southern committees will report, and events will, they expect, have taken such a shape that they can adopt a definite line of action.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 24, 1876.

Hewitt's Charges Against the New York Postoffice.

Hewitt's loud proclamation of his allegations against the New York postoffice is in keeping with his utterances conveying a distorted statement of his interview with the President. Instead of making his complaints known quietly, so that the truth might be ascertained through the secret agents of the Government, they have been publicly announced by Hewitt himself that the verification of the charges will now, it is feared at the department, be impossible, for the person perpetrating the act, if Hewitt's statement is true, has had sufficient notification to put him on his guard.

Inviolability of Telegraphic Communications.

The position taken by the Western Union Telegraph Company in regard to the action of the House in subversion of the inviolability of private communications, meets with general approval here. It is believed that the House will be unable to maintain its position in point of law and precedent, and that any further arbitrary proceedings would only react upon the body which would undertake such a monstrous invasion of the rights of the people.

The Appropriation Bills.

The Committee on Appropriations will meet during the recess, and will endeavor to have all the appropriation bills ready to be presented early in January. Mr. Holman says that he has no purpose of delaying any bills on account of the Presidential complication. An effort is being made by some Democrats, on and off the committee, to induce him to withhold the Army and Navy Appropriation bills until the last.

The Illinois United States Senatorship.

According to the intelligence received here the Senatorial contest in Illinois possesses some features which make it very uncertain for any of the Republican candidates. The strength of the two regular parties is equal, there being ninety-nine Republicans and ninety-nine Democrats. The Independents number five, so that they control the balance of power. They have kept themselves aloof from any alliance with either of the other parties, and studiously refuse to commit themselves. So far as the regular Republicans are concerned, their first choice is Logan. The movement in favor of making General Grant Senator, though possessing much strength and capable of success, was instituted entirely without his knowledge, and has been promptly disapproved. In the first place, he says that he desires a respite from a long season of public duty, most of which has been passed at the head of the armies of the United States or of the navy, outside of the State Governments, and, therefore, attended with complex and arduous duties and grave responsibility and much anxiety. He says he is yet in the prime of his life, and he desires to enjoy the privileges of a sovereign instead of a servant of the Republic that he wishes to see something of the Old World, and has for that purpose purchased a second home. In the second place, he wishes to see General Logan re-elected, as he was a good soldier and has been a useful citizen and public servant. General Logan apprehends no trouble in the Republican ranks, but is doubtful as to the purposes and predilections of the Independents. He feels sure of the Democratic nomination, which, however, is disputed by Ingersoll, Minister Washburne, Representative Burchard and several others. The Democratic candidates are ex-Governor Palmer, ex-Representative Farnsworth, a renegade Republican, and Representative Morrison. Dispatches received here say that the Independents favor Long John Wentworth.

General Meteorological Observations.

The Secretary of the Navy will issue, in a few days, orders to commanders of naval stations and commanding officers of vessels of war, directing that observations be taken and forwarded to the Bureau of Navigation in accordance with accompanying instructions, and for that purpose directing them to designate an officer in charge, who will be held responsible for the duty. The record thus kept will constitute part of the record of the system of international meteorological observations, to be taken simultaneously with other nations, which, with the United States, were parties to the plan of operations agreed upon by the Meteorological Congress in Vienna. The observations must begin on the day following the receipt of this order. The accompanying instructions require that in meteorological observation be taken daily, suitable for the preparation of synoptic charts, to embrace, when practicable, at least the atmospheric pressure, temperature, wind, rain, reading of the wet bulb thermometer, sea swell and weather. This accession to the land stations of the international system will, it is expected, contribute a valuable series of records, and which will have an important bearing in solving the immutable but mysterious laws which govern the atmospheric currents, and particularly those tempestuous demonstrations which always result in suffering and loss of life and property. It is confidently believed that the information thus obtained and the deductions which will follow, will prove of incalculable benefit to commerce and agriculture. The observations will be taken synchronously in the different parts of the globe at 7:35 A. M., Washington mean time. It may be interesting to observe that a recent report shows that the Signal Office and the international system of observations to have made a most gratifying progress, embracing the following nations and provinces and number of stations: Algeria 10, Austria 13, Belgium 1, Great Britain 58, Denmark 6, France 48, Germany 23, Greece 1, Italy 30, Japan 1, the Netherlands 11, Norway 24, Portugal 4, Russia 27, Spain 2, Sweden 6, Switzerland 2, Turkey 5, Canada 28, United States 100. The observations of all these nations are interchanged.

A Flag From Japan.

The Navy Department has received, at the hands of Lieutenant Commander Dickson, sent by Admiral Reynolds, a beautiful Japanese national ensign, presented by the Japanese Navy to the department. The case containing the flag is marked 9th Year of Meiji.

Mysterious Robbery in the Treasury Department.

Some three weeks since a package of $12,000 was shipped from the Treasury Department to the Illinois National Bank of Chicago. On the arrival at the bank it was found to contain only blank paper. The robbery is supposed to have been committed in the cash room of the Treasurer's office, where the packages are made up and sealed previous to their delivery to the express company. The robbery occasions consternation among the clerks in the cash room. The Treasury officials decline to talk on the subject, and there are no indications as to who are suspected. The secret service agents have charge of the matter, and are working diligently to discover the thief and the money.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 22, 1876.

PAYMENT OF JANUARY INTEREST

The Treasury will pay the January interest on United States bonds on the 20th inst., without rebate, and the interest on the District of Columbia bonds due January first on the same date, and without rebate.

NO RECEIPTS.

Senator Ferry says that in all cases where conflicting electoral certificates are known to have been issued, no receipt will be given by him to either of the messengers. E. A. Cronin has not yet presented his certificate.

PARDONED.

The President yesterday pardoned Madison Doom, imprisoned in Virginia for violation of the Civil Rights act. This action forestalls proceedings in the Supreme Court, and as this is the only known case of imprisonment under the Civil Rights act, the consideration of its constitutionality by the Supreme Court is indefinitely postponed.

ARRIVAL OF TROOPS.

Battery F, First Artillery, sixty-five men, Battery H, Second Artillery, fifty-four men, arrived here late last night from Fort Reno, and proceeded to quarters at the arsenal. The latter battery left this afternoon for their old post, Fort McHenry.

GOING TO CONDOLE WITH SAMMY.

Senators Bayard and Gordon, and perhaps Thurman and Ransom, also Speaker Randall, Congressman Lamar, Hewitt and Watterson, will leave this city to-morrow for New York, by invitation, to hold an informal conference with Mr. Tilden.

THE CORN CROP.

The statistician of the Department of Agriculture, in his December report, makes the corn crop only two per cent. short of the great crop of last year, and fully fifty per cent. greater than the crop of 1874. The aggregate, subject to possible future revision, is 1,295,000,000 bushels.

FISHER FOUND GUILTY.

In the case of Charles G. Fisher, late Assistant District Attorney, charged with abstracting papers from the clerk's office of the District Court, the jury rendered a verdict of guilty. A motion was entered for a new trial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 24, 1876.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE UNION PACIFIC.

The Government Directors of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, in their report for the year 1876, say: "The frequency with which conflicts relative to the construction of the Pacific Railroad legislation have arisen has brought the Government Directors to consider whether or not some adjustment of the whole case can be mutually agreed upon by the Government and company which shall put an end to all controversy between them, and settle definitely the manner and time of the Government's reimbursement." They say it is not practicable for the company to pay the first mortgage bonds and the $64,262,512 which would be due to the Government at the end of the thirty year term. It would, therefore, seem to be wise for the Government and the company to agree upon the establishment of a sinking fund, which shall reduce the total indebtedness of the company to the Government at the end of the term to say $25,000,000. This can be done without derangement of the company's affairs, and leave sufficient earnings to provide for reasonable dividends on the capital stock. It does not seem to be wise to reject this element in the case, as a property which returns an income on the capital which it represents, is always better cared for than that which does not. If Congress should authorize the making of such an arrangement as is here suggested, it is believed that the company will concur, and the result will be that the Government will have all its interest refunded during the term of thirty years, and have the principal of the debt reduced $2,236,512. This would leave the debt of the road at the maturity of the first and second mortgage about fifty-two million, as the bridge bonds will have been either wholly paid or such balance of said bonds as may remain unpaid at the time and sinking fund bonds can be provided for by a mortgage on the lands as the land grant bonds will have been paid off by sales of lands. To provide for the $62,000,000 offset mortgage bonds and the balance due the Government, let a new mortgage be authorized by Congress; let $25,000,000 of new first mortgage bonds placed with the Government as collateral securities, to be redeemed as fast as the company can sell them in market at not less than par and accrued interest, but not any one year less than ten per cent. of the amount, besides paying the coupon bond as it matures. There is no ground for reasonable doubt that a first mortgage long five per cent. bond to the amount of fifty-two millions would be an abundant and safe and popular security now, when the practicability and the certainty of the scheme for securing a return to the Government of every dollar which it has invested in the Union Pacific Railroad in connection with the great advantages and saving to the Postoffice and War Departments, as following from indirect benefits resulting from the construction of the road, it may be safely said that no equal outlay of money has ever produced as profitable return.

THE PRESIDENT NOT ALARMED.

President Grant, in the course of a conversation with a representative of the Associated Press to-day, said, in reply to a question, that he had no knowledge of a Democratic armed conspiracy South or or West, as had been reported. He had information merely of organized rifle companies outside of the State militia, but he was not apprehensive of armed collisions in connection with the Presidency, no matter what might be the fears of others. It seemed to him that the country desired not only a fair count of the electoral vote in the Southern contested States, in order to be satisfied of the result. The reports of the several returning boards would shed light on the true condition of affairs, and have a tendency to solve the existing difficulties. It was certainly desirable to establish the actual fact of the election either Hayes or Tilden, for neither could feel satisfied if any doubt remained of his election, because in such case his position as President would not command the requisite general support. The President remarked that no one could suppose that he had any connection with, or knowledge of the declaration as to who was elected. That was not a matter for him to determine. He was anxious for the coming of the 4th of March, when he could gladly give way to his successor, and, freed from official cares and before re-establishing himself at his home in Galena, Ill., he proposed making a voyage to the West Indies, visiting Havana and other points of interest. He had deferred his voyage to Europe till June.

The President, recurring to the recent election, remarked that he should promptly recognize whoever should be declared his successor. With this his political feelings would have nothing to do. He would be received that selection, as was during the Gubernatorial contest in the State of Arkansas, and when both parties represented their respective claims at Washington, he recognized the Democrat in preference to the Republican, because the former was entitled to the position. While it was true that the Presidential term commences by law on the 4th of March, it did not necessarily follow that the President-elect should defer taking the oath of office until that time. He might take it immediately after the declaration of the election, but of course could not enter on the performance of his duties as President until after the 4th of March, the day of the retirement of his predecessor.

The President intends replying to the House resolution calling for information as to the sending of troops to the South, and the authority under which he acted in all such proceedings. He said he intended to keep within the limit of the law, having always previous to acting consulted the Attorney General, his legal adviser and besides the Democratic House of Representatives, during its former session of Congress, emphatically declared that all citizens of the United States should be equally protected in their rights. He further said, with regard to complaints of his sending troops to the South with the above mentioned purpose, that he would be reminded that Senator Frank Blair wanted troops sent thither for a different object, saying in his letter to Colonel Brodhead in June, 1865, that there was no other way to restore the Government and the Constitution, and that was for the President elect to declare the reconstruction acts null and void, and compel the army to do and undo the alleged usurpations at the South, and leave the white people to reorganize their own governments. "Surely," said the President, "if the army, according to General Blair, could be used to wipe out governments, it could in my opinion be employed to support them. The Democratic National Convention, after this letter was written, nominated General Blair for Vice President on the ticket with Governor Seymour. The Republican State governments at the South had nothing to expect from the Democrats. Under their rule all such governments would fade out, as in Mississippi, where General Ames was legally elected Governor, but was ordered to vacate the office and is now a fugitive from the State."

The President seemed pleased with the action of the British Government in retiring from its position on the extradition clause in the treaty of 1842 by surrendering Jennel, Louisville forger, and said

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1876.

ACCORDING to the annual report of the Government Commissioner of Education, just published, out of a total school population in the United States of 14,007,522, there are 8,756,659 persons receiving a public school education, beside those persons who receive private instruction. It is on such facts as these, aided by the social and religious influence of the country, that the hope of a better citizenship and permanent republic rests.

THE Atlanta *Constitution* again warns Northern Democrats to go slow. It says: "It should be understood that the South is for the Union. The bloody tumbril wheel of war has ground it into us with many a scar and with many a pain. Whatever may have been our ante-bellum notions of the rights of a State—as taught by some of the wisest Northern men that ever lived—we have learned through dear experience that secession is not the most comfortable experiment in which a Commonwealth can engaged."

THE postoffice at Grenada, Miss., has been closed, on account of repeated insults offered to the incumbent of the office, the widow of a Union soldier. The inhabitants now have to go ten miles for their mails. The Deputy Collector of the district was attacked by a mob in Grenada last week, and nearly beaten to death, being accused by the Democrats of having influenced the Postmaster General in his action in closing the postoffice. There was a premeditated plot to kill him, and he only escaped by the interference of citizens. A little legal "bulldozing" on the part of the National Government would not come amiss down that way.

THE newest illustration of the irrepressible character of American enterprise is afforded by the organization of a company, now in process of formation, to work the great coral reef recently discovered in the Atlantic ocean, by the United States steamer Gettysburg, between Maderia and Gibraltar. An ingenious Yankee has already perfected machinery and apparatus to lift the submarine wealth to the surface. An approximate idea of the prospective profits may be formed when it is known that a single ton of pure pink coral of the finest grade, at its present value, would be worth $1,000,000. From the reports received it is not unlikely that the wonderful reef will yield hundreds of tons of pure coral.

DURING the investigation last winter of the means used to pass the Boom bill through the Legislature, Representative LYNOTT, of Luzerne, swore that he had received $300 as a bribe to vote for the bill. Just how much of a bribe it really was, or just how much it formed a part of the whole game, has never been clearly ascertained. But the main fact was that this sum of $300 was paid by Mr. LYNOTT to the Senate committee, through its Chairman, Senator DUNKEL, and was left in the hands of that committee when the investigation was over. The question then arose as to what should be done with it; and Senator DUNKEL has solved that problem by paying it over to a charitable institution in Philadelphia.

COLONEL BLANTON DUNCAN, a staunch Kentucky Democrat, closes a letter upon the political situation as follows:

I do not think Governor Hayes need apprehend any trouble. The South will do justice to him, and the co-operation of disappointed politicians who so loudly declare for war and anarchy. War requires organization, money and arms. The Northern States are solid in having Republican Legislatures—except that one House in New Jersey is Democratic and the Senate in Indiana is a tie. The only result of the vaporings may be is assemblages of Democratic militia with cornstocks, to wage war in their respective localities by means of watch and beat and signs. * * * Of one thing I consider there can be no doubt; the people have observed Hayes' conduct and that of Mr. Tilden, and if the election should come off to-morrow, Hayes would carry every Northern State and five of the Southern.

THE scheme of the New York *Public*, indorsed by the New York *Tribune*, to throw over the decision of the Presidential question until the new House is sworn in, is very effectually disposed of by the Constitution, the Twelfth amendment to that instrument says:

If the House of Representatives shall not choose a President, whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, *before* the 4th day of March next following, then the Vice President shall act as President, as in the case of the death or other constitutional disabilities of the President.

If, therefore, the decision of the Presidential question could be delayed, by debates in the Senate, until after the 4th of March, the new House could have no voice in settling it. The Vice President would, in that case, become the President.

TILDEN has a new scheme in regard to the Oregon vote. It is understood that CRONIN has been ordered not to present his certificate at all. His package contains the Governor's certificate of the result of the election for electors, and, if it is not presented, the papers of the Republican electors will be defective in having no such certificate. The vote of the State, therefore, the Democrats claim, must be thrown out on account of informality. This plan the Democrats think will destroy three Republican votes instead of one, and thus be an improvement on the original scheme. The Republican certificate, however, is accompanied by the certified returns of the election for electors, signed by the Secretary of State and attested by the seal of the Commonwealth; and this, the Republicans hold, is a sufficient basis upon which to count the vote of the State.

THE difference in the tone of the Democrats, of late, is very marked. They do not talk fight so much as they did. HENDRICKS gives out that there must be no resort to force, and the general breathing of fire and slaughter has been given up. The Pennsylvania State Committee draws it very mild, and there is, at every point, much less bluster than there was a few weeks ago. From this notable change many have concluded that the Democrats have abandoned their war programme, but we do not so regard it. The change is put on solely to deceive and mislead, and to throw the public off its guard. The Democrats, in point of fact, are playing possum, and pretending to be compliant while preparing all the while to carry out their schemes of resistance. There was so much danger of arousing public sentiment against themselves by their former course that they have abandoned it, but solely to turn away public suspicion. Their original plans remain unchanged.

THE Senate committee, in its investigations so far, has discovered that four Democratic electors are ineligible. These are: FROST, of Missouri, who labors under the disabilities imposed by the Fourteenth amendment; WILLIAMSON, of New Jersey, and HOLLOWAY, of Virginia, who were United States Centennial Commissioners, and MOORE, of Tennessee, who was an officer in the Federal navy prior to the rebellion, and who, having participated in the rebellion, is disqualified under the Fourteenth amendment. If the Oregon theory is to obtain, each of these four electoral votes should be thrown out. To offset these there are four Republican electors who are in like manner ineligible—one in Vermont, one in Iowa, one in Oregon and one in Pennsylvania; so that the figures are even, and neither party can gain or lose by a general application of the Oregon theory. What Mr. TILDEN wants is to apply the rule in Oregon, *and nowhere else*; but this is so unfair that even he is apparently growing ashamed of it.

SMALLEY, in a letter from Washington to the New York *Tribune*, says:

A Republican Senator from New England said to-day that the question could easily be brought before the Supreme Court after the 4th of March, and in a perfectly legal way. In case Governor Hayes should be inaugurated a writ of *quo warranto* could be sued out against him on behalf of Mr. Tilden in the district court, and the case be carried at once to the Supreme Court for a final decision.

The writ of *quo warranto* is not a writ of right, like the writ of *habeas corpus*. Any person has the right to sue out the latter; but the writ of *quo warranto* is moved for only by the Government. In England it is known as the King's writ, and it is used only to find out by what right the holder of an office exercises his powers. It is therefore always brought in the name of and by the Attorney General; and without the consent of the law officer of the Government, it cannot be sued out. Mr. TILDEN, therefore, in the event of HAYES' induction into office, could get the advantage of a writ of *quo warranto* only through the agency of President HAYES' Attorney General.

A SUGGESTIVE CONTRAST.

"They do these things better in France." Extraordinary care is taken by the Government of that country in regard to all matters pertaining to the protection of labor and the development of national industries. French legislation looks to consulting at every stage those who represent the great interests of France. As long ago as a year last April the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce addressed a circular to the chambers of commerce, reminding them of the approaching termination of the different international treaties, briefly recapitulating the economic progress accomplished during the last fifteen years, and inviting them to give their views upon the various questions to be considered, such as the reductions or additions of taxes; specific and *ad valorem* duties; the increase of treasury receipts; the treaty system; and a new general tariff. Fifty-four chambers of commerce and twenty-four consulting chambers of art and manufactures, making seventy-eight chambers in all, were consulted, representing all the great centers of industry in that country. But French tariff legislation is not the only national and patriotic, but thorough and well considered. Not satisfied with giving ample time to these chambers, the opinions of these bodies will be gravely reviewed by a superior council, whose views, in turn, will receive careful attention at the hands of the Government, so that, upon the expiration of the treaties in question, the Government will be thoroughly prepared to renew them upon a basis calculated to insure to the industries of that country the protection of adequate tariffs in order that they may not perish under the unrestricted competition of foreigners.

It certainly will not be maintained that a proper system of tariff legislation is of less importance to this country than to France. Every American citizen is personally interested in it. The manufacturer, the mechanic, the merchant, the miner, the lumberman, the laborer—all are like concerned; and hence it follows that the representatives of our various industries should be consulted in the same manner as is done in France. This is not the case, however. On the contrary, as we showed at the time of the introduction of the MORRISON Tariff bill in the House of Representatives, and again during the recent political campaign, this bill (now pending in that body) was sprung upon the country without the knowledge of anybody except the manufacturers of Great Britain and a few of their most trusted agents on this side of the water. Not a single chamber of commerce, not a branch of industry, not a solitary trade organization, not even the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives, much less the people at large, knew of the proposition to revise the tariff of the United States until January 31, 1876. It came like a clap of thunder from a clear sky. It is a noticeable fact, too, that the bill was not reported from the Committee on Ways and Means until April 12, nor set down for consideration by the Committee of the Whole House, as the special order, until April 26, 1876; and yet in the enacting clause the changes in duties were still noted for July 1st, leaving about two months for manufacturers and importers in which to arrange their affairs. But even these two months could not have been granted, since the bill would have to be debated by the Committee of the Whole House, then go to the Senate Finance Committee, then to the Committee of the Whole in the Senate, then back to the House, then probably to a conference committee, so that for a while it was quite possible that the manufacturers would have importers of our goods a few days to conform to the radical and ruinous changes proposed. We fully agree with a Philadelphia contemporary that it is humiliating to admit that it is possible in this country to prepare such a bill, not to reduce taxation, but to ruin home industries, and that American manufacturers were profoundly ignorant of the impending ruin, while their British competitors were kept thoroughly posted, as the following item from the *British Trade Journal*, published February 1st, *one day* after the bill was read in the House, *but printed before that date*, conclusively shows they were:

Although the protectionist party in the United States is incomparably the strongest and most influential, yet there is an important section of the people who are converted to their economical heresy. There is reason to believe that free trade principles will continue to gain fresh support every day, and that they will ultimately prevail we cannot doubt. *We note that a new tariff bill, making a large reduction in the tariff, increasing the free list, abolishing combined rates, and fixing specific duties, equal to twenty-five or thirty per cent. ad valorem, is to be introduced into the House of Representatives.* Whether it becomes law or not it is significant as it shows that the free trade party is healthily active.

This bill, as we have said, is still pending in the lower branch of Congress, and can be called up for action at any time; in view of which fact it becomes an interesting question as to who were consulted in its formation. Possibly they were the same parties from whom the money comes to foot the bills of the "non-partisan National Free Trade League," which is now in active operation in nearly every State in the Union. And it is quite certain that this money does not come from American manufacturers and farmers.

COUNTING THE VOTE.

The difference between the two parties in interpreting the Twelfth amendment to the Constitution, which regulates the counting of the electoral vote, is this: The Republicans hold that the amendment referred to requires merely that the certificates of the electoral vote shall be opened by the President of the Senate *"in the presence* of both Houses of Congress," and that this phrase, "in the presence of," limits the functions of the two Houses to that of mere witnesses. The Democrats, on the other hand, hold that "in the presence of" means that both Houses shall take part in all that is done and that nothing shall be done without the consent of both. It also claims that the provision of the Constitution which requires that, after the certificates are opened, the votes of the electors shall be counted, means that both Houses shall participate in the count, and that the twenty-second joint rule, which it claims is still in force, in time gives to it the power to object to the vote of any State, and that its objection is sufficient for the exclusion of the vote of such State. The Republicans, of course, deny that the twenty-second joint rule is in force, and will resist any attempt to exercise any power under it.

That the framers of the Constitution meant that the two Houses should simply be witnesses of the count, is apparent, we think, from the fact that to each body is afterwards assigned the peculiar function of selecting the President on the part of the House, and the Vice President on the part of the Senate, in case the count should show that no one had a majority of the electoral vote. They were to be witnesses of the count, simply to satisfy themselves of the fact that there was or was not a choice by the people, so that they might afterwards exercise their peculiar function, if necessary, and not to exercise any authority in determining or ascertaining that fact.

The plain theory of those who framed the Constitution was that the President was to be chosen by electors, and that the electors were to be chosen by the States, each State acting for itself, and each determining for itself all questions as to the choice of such electors. Such an idea as questioning the returns made by the States as to the votes of their electors was not then entertained. The States were held to be supreme in settling all such questions, and after each State had acted there was no power existing to call its action in question.

The theory of State rights, which was guarded closely by the framers of the Constitution, excludes all idea of the right of Congress to interfere in a matter belonging to the States exclusively; and the choice of electors being left unrestrictedly to the States, all that Congress can do is to sit still and witness the constitutional opening and counting of the certificates of the electoral vote by the President of the Senate.

A LATELY published report of the London Board of Trade contains some interesting statistics concerning the emigration movement from that country. It appears that the outflow from Great Britain, after having during 1862 and some years previous maintained a mean annual rate of 120,000, suddenly rose in 1863 to about 216,000, at least nine-tenths of this large increase being absorbed by this country, notwithstanding the war, and that number rose quite steadily to 310,000 in 1873, or nearly one per cent. of the total population of Great Britain; then the movement sank to 240,000 in 1874, and 170,000 in 1875, this last figure being the lowest recorded during thirteen years. As to movement by nationality, the Scotch contributed ten per cent. of the total in 1858 and twelve per cent. in 1875; while the outflow from England was 57,000 in 1855 and 26,000 in 1860, against 79,000 and 60,000 from Ireland in those years. This was a much more rapid decrease in the English than in the Irish emigration; but by 1870 the movement had reversed its proportion, and in 1875 the English emigrants outnumbered the Irish two to one. The natives of foreign countries embarking at the ports of the United Kingdom, who in 1858 contributed but four per cent. to the aggregate outflow, are now credited with twenty, or nearly as much as the contingent from Ireland. Some curious changes in the preferences of emigrants for different countries as destination are shown. The Scotch, who, five to seven years ago, preferred the United States in the proportion of four to one, were about evenly divided last year between this country and Australia. Ireland mainly remains in the preference for America, but nearly twenty, per cent. out of her quota is now devoted to Sydney and Melbourne, against five per cent. five years ago. The old anti-American feeling among the English seems to be wavering; since whereas in 1858 the United States got about twenty-three per cent. of the English emigration and Australia fifty-five per cent., less than one-quarter now goes to that great island and more than one-half comes here. At the same time, however, South America and South Africa exhibit considerable gains, although there is an apparent slackening of the movement towards the countries which have hitherto had the preference of the British emigration.

THE official figures of the late Presidential election show that in the twenty-two Northern States the Republican vote amounted to 2,940,422. This is 337,005 votes larger than the Republican vote cast at any previous election in those States, showing that the cry of "reform" did not weaken the Republican vote in the North. In nine of the sixteen Southern States—Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia—the Republicans polled more votes than they ever polled before. The total Republican vote in these nine States amounted to 743,389, or 74,533 larger than any previous vote. In seven Southern States—Delaware, Arkansas, Virginia, Texas, Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia—the Republicans polled fewer votes than at any previous election at which they polled the largest vote. The total vote in these seven States is 358,914, being 106,346 less than the previous largest votes. The loss in Delaware, Virginia, Arkansas and Texas is not large enough to call for comment, but the loss in Alabama is twenty-seven per cent., in Mississippi thirty-seven per cent. and in Georgia forty-one per cent. Commenting on these facts the New York *Tribune* forcibly asks: "Can you in those States, and *not anywhere else*, Republican voters by the thousand became anxious for reform? Is there a decent man who will pretend that the natural influence of property and intelligence, employed in vain elsewhere, caused this revolution?"

All manner of argument failed in every Northern State: the Republicans gained more votes than they lost. Argument, persuasion, wheedling, and intimidation failed in all the Southern States; the Republicans either polled more votes than ever before or nearly as many. But in Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia, we are told, from one-fourth to one-half of the Republicans were converted by argument or persuasion, and voluntarily voted the Democratic ticket! Who believes the impudent assertion? We pity the man whose reasoning faculties are so warped and whose conscience is so dull that he does not indignantly denounce the monstrous crime against self-government which these contrasts reveal.

These three States gave Tilden a majority of 172,417, and his popular majority in the whole country is less than 150,000 over Hayes. With these figures we now begin. We congratulate him upon a majority obtained by diligent use of knives and revolvers, whips and rifles. Many men would scorn to countenance such a terrible crime by claiming an office as its fruit. Mr. TILDEN seems, however, to make no objection now than he did in 1868, when the State of New York was robbed.

THE danger which now threatens the country is much like that which befel England after the death of CROMWELL. The reaction which then occurred was not only one that favored royalty, but it brought the extreme of luxury and vice to a realm which for seven years had been noted for Puritan simplicity. Instead of the economy and patriotism which had built up the Commonwealth there came the brood of rotten-hearted courtiers, with corruption in all its varied forms. All that could deface society was emptied upon a government which for seven years was pure and high-minded. Such was the contrast between the regime of CROMWELL and the reign of CHARLES the Second, and such a transformation now threatens the United States. The old slave States expect the restoration of what they call "their rights," by which they mean a return of the slave system; not that the negro would again be made a chattel, but that his degradation would be enforced until the race should be confirmed in a condition like that of the ancient Helots. This will, no doubt, now be attempted. If TILDEN succeeds in his attempt to burglarize the Presidency, the school-house incendiaries and the rifle clubs will be under no restraint, and the destinies of the Government will be administered by a class of politicians who were thoroughly in sympathy with the pro-slavery treason. In such an event the South will lose all its Northern settlers, and get no more immigration. Not only the "carpet-baggers," but everybody of independence of mind and speech from the free States will move away, and then will come the retribution of stagnation.

IF it is not Tilden and Hendricks, it will be Tilden and Wheeler.—*Post.*

There is a very strong and well-founded suspicion on the part of Western Democrats that the Eastern leaders are trying to sell HENDRICKS out, and there have been many expressions of opinion in other Democratic papers than the *Post* that the result of these complications will be TILDEN and WHEELER. Of course the Republicans will not consent to any such arrangement, and will have HAYES and WHEELER or nothing, but the Eastern Democrats are undoubtedly anxious to unload HENDRICKS and give the Republicans the Vice President in what they call a compromise. HENDRICKS' friends don't like this, and there has been some very indignant talk at Washington by soft-money Democrats from the West, and savage threats are said to have been made as to what the result will be if HEWITT and others attempt to shake their candidate for Vice President. The bad feeling is liable to result in a general demoralization. The Washington correspondent of the *Graphic* says there are strong signs of a break-up in the Democratic ranks:

The Southern Democrats are making advances which show that they see more good in Hayes' than in Tilden's inauguration. They say they want the Texas Pacific Railroad. They want their harbors improved, and obstructions to navigation placed during the war removed; they want a high protective tariff to swell the profits of their plantations, and have very little to expect from Tilden in these particulars. He is opposed to the Texas Pacific Railroad; he is opposed to harbor improvements, and is a free trader. The objections to Tilden that found expression before the St. Louis Convention are revived with even more violence than then.

THE Pittson *Gazette*, referring to the difficulty of bringing Democratic criminals to justice in a Democratic county, cites the Beamish case as an instance and says:

The conviction, at last, of the notorious Frank A. Beamish, who has so long evaded trial and punishment by his defiant cunning and the aid of learned counsel, is cause for congratulation and inspires the people with new faith in legal processes. For years this case has been dragging along, until many began to think our Luzerne Tweed had the judges and courts under his control, and that justice would never overtake him. Thanks to Judge Harding for his fearless, impartial action, all fears of this kind are set at rest.

It is unnecessary to review the charges of which Beamish has been found guilty, as all are familiar with the history of the case. As receiver of school taxes in the city of Scranton, he forged a duplicate, in which the amounts assessed were raised in an aggregate sum of nearly $10,000, which he collected and appropriated.

Notwithstanding these facts were long ago laid before the people as clearly as if they had been established in a court of law, this man Beamish has continued to occupy high positions in the councils of the party to which he belongs—was elected Sergeant-at-Arms by the Lower House of the last Legislature, is at present bank assessor of this county by appointment of the Auditor General, and was a candidate for State Senator at the general election last month, when he received 5,550 votes, and was only defeated by 103 plurality, having an independent candidate of his politics and the leading and only daily paper of his party against him. That such things were possible, under such circumstances, shows the extent of his baneful influence, and the importance of his conviction.

THE grain commerce of the port of Buffalo, which practically began in 1836, grew from nothing to immense proportions, reaching 72,872,000 bushels in 1862 and 70,962,000 bushels in 1873, since which latter year it has steadily declined. During the past forty-one years no less than 1,278,398,000 bushels of grain have been received at that port, and transferred and forwarded to the East. Estimating the average price of the property at $1 25 a bushel, it was worth the enormous sum of $1,597,997,500. This, according to the Buffalo *Advertiser*, is twenty-four times the assessed valuation of all the real estate in Erie county, as returned last year, and it exceeds the assessed valuation of New York, Kings, Westchester, Albany and Erie, the five most populous and wealthy counties in the State of New York. But there are unmistakable signs that this valuable commerce is declining. The figures show the receipts of grain to be nearly 10,000,000 bushels less in 1876 than in 1875, 14,341,000 bushels less than in 1874, and 22,778,000 bushels less than in 1873. Here, in three years, is a loss equal to nearly one-half of the entire business. The lumber receipts in 1876 were only 114,822,000 feet; in 1873 they were 212,500,960 feet. The imports of staves were only 9,385,000 in 1876, while in 1874 they were 22,235,000, and 21,120,156 in 1873.

THE "instruction shops" some time ago established in Boston in connection with the Institute of Technology are overrun with applications for admission. The practical benefits of the system are likely to secure for it a high place among industrial and scientific methods. The main idea is to unravel the complexity of every process until the simplicity of the scheme becomes perfectly comprehensible. The art of making people skillful in the processes of industrial workmanship is closely allied with the art of making people skillful in any difficult practice, since the same general principles operate in every case. It is somewhat like making people skillful in the manual of arms. One of the most important teachings of the method is in separating the industrial shops from the construction shops, in making them schools and not manufactories. Each successive exercise of the students is of a character to tend to develop his skill more rapidly than by any other method of instruction. The system does not contemplate the teaching of anything that has been taught heretofore, and promises to result in incalculable benefit to the students.

THE Washington *Republican* thus outlines the Democratic plan of operation as agreed upon by the Democratic leaders in the matter of counting the electoral vote:

If the joint committee of Congress fail to decide on a plan for counting the electoral vote by which Mr. Tilden can be elected, the Democrats composing it will immediately withdraw from the joint convention to count the electoral vote. After the withdrawal, should the President of the Senate attempt to count the vote according to historic precedent and the mode prescribed by the Constitution, which must necessarily elect Mr. Hayes the House will refuse to recognize the latter as President, and withdrawing will proceed immediately to elect the former, and call on the country to sustain its action. This plan was adopted in the Democratic caucus at the request of Mr. Tilden, who proposes in case the Senate declares Hayes elected to secure his own inauguration in New York and establish a "Dual Government."

This is a very pretty plan, as it stands; but man proposes and GOD disposes. A good many things may happen between now and the third Tuesday in February, and the probability is that this plan, like all the other well-laid schemes of mice and men, will come to naught long before then.

PERSONAL.

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More miners have crowded into the Black Hills than the country will support, and there are now two or three thousand in Deadwood alone who are without occupation or means of living during the winter.

China will have a diplomatic representation in the United States. Chan Lan Pau is gazetted in Pekin as chief of the mission with a salary of 12,000 taels. A tael is worth $1 61, so that C. L. P. will have $19,320 per annum to live on. His assistant, Yung Wing, will receive $12,880; his first secretary, Wong Ching, $5,796. A consul will be stationed at San Francisco with a yearly pay of $6,440.

The Sclavonic Committee at St. Peters burg has published an almanac which contains some very interesting statistics of the Sclavenic populations. From these statistics it appears that the Sclavonic family is divided as follows: 1. The Great Russians, Little Russians, White Russians, Galicians, 70,000,000; 2. The Poles, distributed over Russia, Austria and Prussia, 9,500,000; 3. The Czechs, 5,000,000; 4. The Siberian Servians, Styrians, Carinthians, and the Serbo-Croats, 19,000,000; and, lastly, the Sclavic element of Bulgaria, more than 5,000,000. The total number of this great people is 90,000,000.

It is the fashion in Europe now to tell Russian stories, and particularly about the Russian princes that live habitually in France. Two have just been published that are worth repeating. The Russian princess in Paris are all men of large incomes, but generally spendthrifts. One of them borrowed the sum of 10,000 francs from a money-lender, giving his note for the same. On the day it fell due the holder presented it for payment, and was told by the Prince that he had no money to waste in paying debts. At that moment a gentleman entered, and the Prince handed him 20,000 francs to meet the losses of the night before at the club. The Jew tore up his note of hand, and said, when going out, "Now, Prince, there is nothing between us but a debt of honor." The Prince bowed and handed over the money without a word. The second begins in the same way, but when the Jew presented it for payment, and was told by the Prince that he had no money to waste in paying debts. At that moment a gentleman entered, and the Prince handed him 20,000 francs to meet the losses of the night before at the club. The Jew tore up his note of hand, and said, when going out, "Now, Prince, there is nothing between us but a debt of honor." The Prince bowed and handed over the money without a word. The second begins in the same way, but when the Jew presented it for payment, and was told by the Prince that he had no money to waste in paying debts, the Prince flew in a passion, called him hard names, and, drawing a revolver, made him eat the note of hand. A few days later, the Jew received his money, with a thousand-franc bill thrown in for interest. Shortly afterward the Jew received a letter from the Prince telling him that he was again in want of money, and telling him to present himself with 10,000 francs and stamped paper upon which to write his infernal notes of hand. The Jew came with the money. "Where is your paper for the note?" he said, taking the money. "Here it is, Prince," said the Jew, drawing a large cake of gingerbread from his pocket. The Prince laughed at the joke and shortly afterward paid the debt with interest.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 26, 1876.

The Wall Defalcation Must be Made Good.

An official communication, by direction of the Postmaster General, was sent to Postmaster Negley, at Pittsburgh, to-day, notifying him that the report of the special agent of the department, investigating the defalcation in the money order branch of his office, states that the amount in default is shown to be seven thousand seven hundred and five dollars and ninety-nine cents, and directs him to forthwith charge that amount to the credit of the department, under pain of immediate prosecution. A rumor was current in the department to-day that Negley's sureties are questionable, but of this nothing definite is known, though it has occasioned quite a stir. The department has no sympathy for Postmaster Negley, for, as has already been stated in these dispatches, the reason that he was cautioned about Wall fully two months ago, and displayed great indignation over these intimations.

A Denial.

It has been stated that General Anderson, a member of the Louisiana Returning Board, had a long interview with the President yesterday. The President states that he does not know General Anderson, and that he did not see him. General Anderson returned to New Orleans to-day.

Cronin.

The Electoral College of Oregon, called at the room of the President of the Senate at the capitol to-day, to deliver the supposition, electoral vote of Oregon. As Mr. Ferry was absent, he will put in an appearance again to-morrow for that purpose.

Irregularities in the Patent Office.

Secretary Chandler says that the irregularities in the Patent Office have been corrected by the dismissal of the parties implicated. There is a probability of these exposures leading to a thorough overhauling of the office, and a reconstruction of its *personnel*.

An International Work.

The President, some weeks ago, addressed the principal maritime nations of Europe on the subject of American surveys of inter-oceanic canal routes across the Isthmus of Darien, and the conclusions reached by the commission, suggesting that it be made an international work. Replies have been received from some of those Governments, all of which are favorable to the prosecution of the work in the manner stated. The prospects of an early undertaking of this great enterprise are now favorable, and the President will urge that it be commenced at the earliest practicable day.

The Joint Committee.

The Senate branch of the joint committee to devise a method to adjust the complications growing out of the counting of the electoral vote held a preliminary meeting of several hours to-day. Senators Edmunds and Morton repectively submitted their views, in the shape of propositions which they consider would meet the necessities of the case and over the main points of difference between the two Houses. Senator Thurman will also present a plan. The principal discussion to-day was upon the general principles which should govern the deliberations of the committee when they meet in joint session. It was generally admitted that there would be no joint session until some policy in this respect was agreed upon. It is evident, from the views expressed by the members of the Senate committee, that the proposition to submit the questions to the Supreme Court does not meet with approval. It is claimed that Congress is not ready to surrender its prerogatives as an independent branch of the Government. They have great confidence in their ability to devise some method whereby the existing differences may be adjusted to the satisfaction of all.

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 25, 1876.

A SUBPŒNA FOR MR. ORTON—RAMSEY'S LETTER.

The Speaker of the House has caused a subpœna to issue against Mr. Orton, to appear forthwith before the Morrison Investigating Committee at New Orleans, with the required telegrams. The following is a copy of a letter from Mr. Randall to President Orton, written yesterday:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C., December 25, 1876.—*Wm. Orton, Esq., President Western Union Telegraph Company, New York*—SIR: Referring to the copy of the subpœna accompanying the communication addressed to you, postmarked New York, December 25, 4:30 P. M., and by me just received, I find there is a clerical error in the date which escaped my attention at the time it was signed, of which you might perhaps have availed yourself as an excuse for not having promptly complied with the subpœna manifestly desired to have produced had you appeared before them in obedience to the mandate about which you do not seem to have any doubt or anything that has been taught heretofore, and promises to result in incalculable benefit to the students.

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consideration, sir, your obedient servant,
HAMILTON FISH.

ANOTHER MESSAGE.

The President, in his message on the extradition treaty between the United States and Great Britain, says: "It is with great satisfaction I have to announce that Her Majesty's Government, while expressing its desire not to be understood to recede from the interpretation which, in its previous correspondence, it had put upon the treaty, but having regard to the prospect of a new treaty and powers possessed by either party of spontaneously denouncing the old one, caused the rearrest, on the 4th inst., of Brent, one of the fugitives who had been previously discharged, and after waiting the requisite time within which the fugitive is entitled to apply for his discharge, on the 21st surrendered him to the agent appointed on behalf of this Government to receive and convey him to the United States. As the surrender of Great Britain, without condition or stipulation of any kind being asked, removes the obstacle which interrupted the execution of the treaty, I shall no longer abstain from making demands on Her Majesty's Government for the surrender of fugitive criminals, nor from entertaining requisitions of that character from that Government under the treaty of 1842, but will again regard the treaty as operative, hoping to be able before long to conclude with Her Majesty's Government a new treaty of a broader and more comprehensive nature." The correspondence accompanying the message includes dispatches heretofore published as far back as June and July of the present year.

PRIVACY OF TELEGRAMS.

Correspondence Between Hon. William Orton, Speaker Randall and Senator Morton—The Company Will Only Produce the Telegrams When the Law Compels Them to Do So.

NEW YORK, December 25.—The following correspondence is furnished by the Western Union Telegraph Company:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH CO.,
NEW YORK, December 23, 1876.

Hon. William R. Morrison, Chairman, New Orleans, La.:

SIR—Accompanying this I send you a communication made by me this day to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in response to a paper served upon me, and which requires the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives to summon me to appear before your committee at New Orleans on the 26th of December. I do not suppose it is thought I possess any personal knowledge concerning any of the matters to be investigated by that committee. I am but now recovering from a long and serious illness, and my health is in such a state that I could not, without great inconvenience and risks as well as unnecessary expense to the government, make so long a journey as that to New Orleans. I trust, therefore, that I may be relieved from personal attendance, and that a report as to may think proper to make to the Speaker of the House may not involve me in contempt for failure to appear personally. I possess no knowledge in respect to any matter confided to you for investigation, or in respect to the papers which you seek, which would be of any value to you if I were there. I am, very respectfully,
[Signed] WILLIAM ORTON.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY,
NEW YORK, December 23, 1876.

To Hon. Samuel J. Randall, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.:

SIR—On the 19th day of December a paper (a copy of which is hereto annexed) was placed in my hands, addressed to and signed by you as Speaker, by which paper the said Thompson or his special messenger is commanded to produce at New Orleans before the special committee of the House of Representatives, of which Hon. William R. Morrison is Chairman, all telegrams in his possession or under his control received or sent by William E. Chandler, Zack. Chandler, Don Cameron, J. M. Edmunds, James Lowry, Wm. Van Ness Cregg, S. B. Packard, John F. Casey, J. R. G. Pitken, Henry C. Dibell, H. C. Warmouth, Geo. W. Carter and General Anger, from and at New Orleans, Louisiana, Washington city, D. C., New York city, New York, since the first day of September last. Said paper also appears to require the said Thompson or his agent to appear before the said select committee at the same time and place, then and there to testify touching matters of inquiry committed to said committee. The commission has been erroneously supposed to contain some command addressed to me requiring me to produce before said committee telegrams of a like description to those which came under my control, I beg leave respectfully to inform you that if any such messages have ever existed, of which I have no knowledge, I have never, either personally or officially, any possession of them; that I have never had any control over them, except as an agent of the Western Union Telegraph Company through and by the co-operation of subordinate agents; that the Western Union Telegraph Company has, without any knowledge or participation on my part, been from me all power and control over all messages now in the possession of the company. I beg leave, therefore, respectfully to state that I regret my inability to comply with the above mentioned commission and have no power to comply with the same. Very respectfully, etc.,
[Signed] WILLIAM ORTON.

CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK, ss.:

Personally appeared before me, this 23d day of December, 1876, William Orton, to me personally known who, being duly sworn, deposed that the annexed statement addressed to Hon. Samuel J. Randall, Speaker of the House of Representatives, is true, and that the same is made as and for his return to the certain paper purporting to be a subpœna referred to therein.
[Signed] WILLIAM ARNAUX,
Notary Public, City and County of New York.
[Seal]

UNITED STATES SENATE CHMBER,
WASHINGTON, December 1876.

To Hon. William Orton, Present of the Western Union Telegraph Company:

SIR—You are hereby required to produce without delay before the Committee of Privileges and Elections of the United States Senate, the originals or copies of all telegraphic dispatches received at or sent from the telegraph office Salem and Portland, State of Oregon, on the 7th day of November, 1876, to the nineteenth day of December, 1876, any at all dispatches containing the name of J. N. P. Patrick, or J. N. Patrick, also Charles Diamond or Charles Dimond, also Runyon & Co., also Ladd & Bush, also Eugene Cassey, also William M. Gwinn, or to said Gwin or from him, and all dispatches here the sum of eight thousand dollars is mentioned, and all dispatches of apolitical character

HOW CHRISTMAS WAS OBSERVED.

...ings of the Day—The Churches and Sabbath Schools—The Young Men's Temperance Union—The Hungry Ped at Murphy's Headquarters—Presentations Etc., Etc., Etc.

Monday, Christmas day, passed off most ...asantly in the two cities. The weather, like late preceding anniversaries, was all it could be desired. With the ground ...vered with snow and the state of the ...ermometer only such as was seasonable, ...ople had every opportunity to enjoy ...emselves as they desired. The churches ...at were opened were largely attended, ...hile the theaters and other places of ...usement were crowded afternoon and ...evning. The children had more than us...al opportunity for pleasure. The Sunday ...hools were everywhere filled with far ...ore than the usual crowd of joyous children and a plentiful supply of good things ...as distributed. The boys had plenty of ...edding and skating, and they were merry ...om morning till night. We note below ...rious items of interest concerning the ob...rvance of the day:

AMONG THE LUTHERANS.

There is no class of our citizens who ...ake more of Christmas and in a more ...tional way than those of German birth ...nd ancestry. There is nothing strained or ...fected in the enthusiasm with which ...ey make their preparations for the children's day and rank themselves among ...e children when it comes. Representing ...is class of Christian people among us ...e have the English Lutheran Church, ...me place of worship is on Sixth avenue. They held their Sabbath School ...ristmas exercises on Saturday evening, ...t the aroma of the joys they had tasted ...ll lingered in their Sabbath School rooms ...e were conducted through them on ...ristmas morning. The service of Christ...as day was conducted by their pastor, ...v. Samuel Laird. His discourse was ...e in which were handsomely illus...ted that generally easy and self-...ntained but sometimes awakening elo...ence, and that unostentatious command ...scriptural and classical literature, which ...e so warmly attached to that gentle...an's ministry among many of the most...red hearers in our cities. Founding his ...scourse upon the visit of the Magi, Mat...ew II., 1, 2, he remarked that, while the ...ord of the Advent was given first to the ...ir, the grandees had not long to wait. ...rthermore, the second manifestation, ...t to the Eastern astronomers, was the ...ngelic one. Specific references were ...ade and the chanted story of the angels, while ...y eye turned heavenward might have ...n the signal star hung out in heaven, ...e fabled star flung out in gentile ...ad these far comers were men of note; ...y had access to the courts of kings. ...ril, then, is this named by empassis the ...mphitheatre of mankind, and Christ ...e perfigured the opening of the Church of ...d to the Gentiles. The old temple, ...ough built upon the threshing floor of a ...orite, and of materials furnished by ...ntile king, was for the Jews. The prose...es were but an incidental element in ...ir congregations. Here we have the ...dings of the Jew, that is, the natural ...e is the first breathing of that catholic ...it which marks the Christian Church. ...ese men came from the East. Thence ...e come the best exemplifications of ...at is most noble and what is most bare, ...edom and tyranny, a noble philosophy ...d literature and the debasement of witch...d superstition. All the world looks ...tward, for it is still true that salvation is ...he Jews, and the mind of Christendom ...tent upon the signs of the times with ...ference to the consummation of the ...ental people into covenant favor.

"these "wise men" were probably of that ...s of royal counsellors of which we have ...ount in the story of God's dealings with ...raoh and Belshazzar. They were prob...y astronomers, and the sign to them ...s a near one. So does the Church argue in ...n by way of their callings. The shep...d lad is called to feed the Lord's flock; ...on receives his commission among his ...s, and the Roman centurion learns from ...own profession the lesson of the subor...ation of all the powers of nature to the ...l of God. * * * Here we see the sci...e of the Orient paying homage to faith, ...nk not that the stones, the life-cells or ...stellar spaces of science lead everywhere ...to God. These illustrious men ...ked into the star to see beyond it. ...y were in the love of their land and ...r all, and they showed their wisdom ...seeking more. "To him that hath shall ...given." The symbolism of the new ...r as a stranger among the sisterhood, ...s of nature; to interpret its appearance ...s blessed portent was of grace divine. ...e have burst like a morning star from ...arkness, and it was of God that these de...t strangers saw in this one more than ...henomenon of science. So is this Bible ...ge's handling and pondering words ...mon words until the Holy Ghost opens ...eye to a spiritual discernment.

...he preacher then drew interesting parallels ...d comparisons from the examples of the ...e men in their faith—not stumbled by ...humble surroundings of the infant ...g—their obedience, perseverance sus...ned and devotion. Their place of worship ...ence spiritual and outward, it was cost...it was symbolical, the gold laid upon ...manger recognizing the royalty of the ...y babe, the frankincense the deity, and ...myrrh His humanity. Thus have we ...arrant for a due resort to symbolism in ...worship.

...comisons was then drawn between these ...le inquirers, and Herod and his court—...at was token of salvation to the one ...y was the occasion of troubled thoughts ...d alarm—and upon this comparison ...e based the concluding exhortations.

EIGHTH U. P. SABBATH SCHOOL.

...he Sabbath school of the Eighth United ...bsterian Church, Rev. John S. Sands, ...tor, is one of the largest in the city. ...Christmas services are always attract...and interesting, and looked forward to ...iously by hundreds of children. On ...sday over three hundred were on hand ...ht and early, with shining faces ...ered with smiles. The Sun...school rooms were decorated ...h evergreens and the little ones ...re warmly welcomed by the pastor, the ...ient Superintendent, John S. Lambie ..., and the teachers. The following pro...me of exercises had been printed and ...g distributed the exercises began ...mptly at the hour appointed. After the ...ing of a familiar hymn by the congrega...prayer by Mr. E. S. Morrow, Master ...ie Troop read a piece entitled "Worship ...let the new born King," in a manner ...h to be commended. He was heartily ...lauded.

...superintendent Lambie then made a ...py address, much to the pleasure of the ...le folks, which was followed by mingled ...h sadness on the announcement of ...se deaths during the year, viz: Nicholas ...ner, George and Mabel M. Raphael. ...yer by Mr. W. J. Brown closed the ...st part. Part third opened with in...ations and responses, and then Ger...ie Susan Case Read in a commendable ...ner "A Merry Christmas." This was ...owed by a reading of Minnie Ford, ...ghter of Prof. Wm. R. Ford, "Come ye ...e come ye lowly!" which ...y warmly applauded. A pleas...d then sung and Rev. Sands made a ...asing address. Readings, "It came ...n the midnight clear," by Hugh Mc...ee, and "After Christmas" by Bessie S. ...nbie, daughter of the Superintendent, ...owed. The pieces were excellently ...dered and the performers received ...m encomiums.

...he closing feature was exceedingly in...esting, being the presentation by the ...erintendent of a handsome book to ...h boy or girl who attended every Sab...h during the year, and also to each of ...e who missed but one day. Of the ...mer there were twenty and of the latter ...

Every scholar in the school also re...ved a large paper box of candy.

FRANCIS MURPHY'S PRAYER MEETING.

...he all day prayer meeting at the Fifth ...nue Methodist church, under the aus...es of the Young Men's Temperance ...on, and conducted by Francis Murphy, ...a grand success. Crowds were in at...dance from nine o'clock, and the utmost ...erest was manifested in the proceedings.

...committee of ladies consist...of Mrs. Collins, Mrs. ...g, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. ...ican, Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. ...ley, Mrs. Childs, Miss Irwin, Miss Scott ...d Miss Davenport had charge of the ...ving of a lunch to all comers, and right ...l did they succeed. Kind citizens in...ed by temperance cause had been ...t liberal in providing the tables, and ...less than twelve hundred hungry men ...re fed. They were divided into com...nies of forty, and admitted to the base...nt of the church, where the tables were ...ead. The evening meeting was more ...wded if possible, than any that pro...ded it.

...Miss Emma Stevenson, organist at the ...ond Presbyterian Church, was pre...ed by the congregation, with a beauti...silver mounted toilet set.

...Several addresses each of his deputys ...h a fine turkey.

...harles W. Houston, message clerk of ...ncils has been presented by a number ...his friends with a handsome pair of ...ve buttons. Mr. John A Fox made ...presentation speech.

...bout noon a messenger called at the ...ce of well known coal merchant and ...sented him with a package, which, on ...g opened, was found to contain a gold ...aded cane and several other articles, ...on each of which were the initials of the ...plient. Pleased with the attention the ...tleman presented the messenger with a ...dsome silver piece, and then took the ...ss home for the satisfaction of his fam...

...Yesterday several ladies and gentle...n called upon the merchant and ex...ed to him that the articles were in...ded for another gentleman having the ...e initials. They were returned.

THE YOUNG MEN'S HOME.

...t this worthy institution a pleasant ...e was had. At nine o'clock the in...tes, employees and a number of invited ...sts assembled in the parlor, and upon ...tand in the center of the room stood a ...gant engraved and chased ice pitcher ...d goblets of silver lined with gold, from ...e establishment of Thomas McFadden, ...th avenue. The assistant superintend...t, after the singing of a hymn, arose ...d made some remarks on the custom ...making presents on Christmas ..., and then referred to the great sacri...e never ending gift that God had ...de for mankind in Jesus Christ from ...ve's to His creatures, and that we, when ...ese worth and merit was found in one of our fellow creatures, should show our appreciation and love by some substantial mark of regard. He felt it a pleasure, on behalf of the employees and the Home, to present the beautifully wrought pitcher and goblets to the Superintendent, Mr. Long, and his lady.

Mr. Long expressed his sensibility of the kindness shown him, and commended the manner in which the employees had always performed their duty. Mrs. L. also arose and thanked the friends for their kind remembrance of her.

Addresses were made by several of the guests.

PRESENTS TO OFFICIALS.

As usual for several years back, the clerk's in the Prothonotary's office dined at the residence of Mr. Kennedy. An elegant repast was served and the most hearty enjoyment was had by all. An interesting feature, however, was a presentation by the clerks of an elegant set of chinaware to Mr. Kennedy. They also presented to Mr. John O. Petty, the chief clerk, a beautiful pair of gold and enamel sleeve buttons, and an elegant gold ring with a cameo set. Mr. Petty has been appointed to take charge of the clerk's business of the Orphans' Court.

THAT WONDERFUL METEOR.

As Seen by a Resident of Mount Washington.

The meteor which flashed over the country, on Thursday night last, from southwest to northeast, was distinctly seen by Charles S. Fetterman, Esq., whose residence is on the commanding eminence of Mount Washington. Although not given to stargazing, it fell to Mr. Fetterman's lot to witness the phenomenon as fully and satisfactorily as though he had been appointed for the occasion. Having occasion to step outside the door, at about five minutes past nine, his attention was attracted by some person running along the street, and while he was listening, with his face turned toward the southeast, the meteor burst upon his vision—very much resembling the bursting of a beautiful rocket, except that the main ball of fire moved on in a horizontal line, towards the northeast, giving off small spheres of light, to the number of ten or a dozen. Its movement was not characterized by extraordinary velocity, and yet it did not tend to describe a circle, as in the case with bodies about to fall from the zone of momentum. The sight was so novel and striking, and the indications of its continuance so marked, that Mr. Fetterman rushed impulsively into the house and called the members of his family to witness it. They came at his call, and were gratified with a view of the mysterious visitor. It must have been fully ten minutes and a quarter after the meteor left Mr. Fetterman's calculation, from the time he first saw the meteor until it finally disappeared. From his point of observation it looked as though the ball was following over this city, taking the line of Boyd's hill, the Twelfth and Fifteenth wards, etc., to the Allegheny river. It appeared to be about as large as an ordinary gasling globe, and its path was low—seemingly about twenty degrees. It is quite probable that this was the same meteor seen at St. Louis, Missouri, Columbus, Ohio, and other points, and which is reported to have struck the earth at or near Rochester, New York, the same night. It is somewhat remarkable, however, that in the New York account of this phenomenon, as the hour was not late, and the night, although cold, was clear and pleasant.

OBITUARY

PETER REYMER.

The joyousness of several homes clouded, on Christmas, by death—among others, the families of the Reymer brothers. Mr. Peter Reymer, an aged and highly esteemed citizen, died suddenly on Christmas evening, after having spent a very pleasant day, with his children. The old gentleman was in his Christmas dinner, and while Phillip, of the firm of Reymer Brothers, Wood street, and afterward started for the residence of his daughter on Monterey street, Allegheny, which he reached apparently in as good health as usual. He took his accustomed smoke, and about ten o'clock P. M. he retired. Twenty minutes later he was discovered lying on the bed a corpse. Diseased was in his seventy-ninth year, but had been blessed with remarkable health. He had been a resident of Pittsburgh since about 1816, and was therefore one of the oldest residents. The cause of the sudden decease is believed to have been an affection of the heart.

MRS. WARNER.

Mrs. Warner, the mother of Henry Warner, Esq., County Controller, died on Christmas forenoon, at her residence, No. 210 Jacob street, Allegheny, after a long illness. She was seventy-four years of age, and was widely known and highly esteemed in the community in which she had passed her entire life. Her husband died out about two years ago, he having attained to almost the same ripe old age. Mrs. Warner's funeral will take place from her late residence, this afternoon, at two o'clock.

WILLIAM DAY.

William Day, of Beltzhoover borough, died yesterday morning of erysipelas, caused by a severe cold contracted about a week since. The deceased was seventy-four years of age yesterday and had resided in Pittsburgh all his life. The number of years he was engaged in the manufacture of shovels on Sixth, late St. Clair street, and afterwards embarked in the business of making linseed oil on the South Side. He leaves a wife and three children.

Tilden, Reformation and Vegetation.

Let the Democrats pre *appeal* to im-*peach* President Grant. The *apple* ation of President will not thereby be conferred upon Tilden. Their threats are of no consequence, for they will soon be glad to *(s)quash* all pro-*seed*-ings in that direction; and though their great reformer may think himself "*sown pumpkins*," he will soon have the *melon* choly satisfaction of knowing that he *cant elope* with Miss Columbia, even if he does make a desperate attempt to *catchup* an Oregon. He may *turnup* at the Presidential inauguration, but it will be simply as a spec*tater*, *boiling* with wrath. He will, however, soon *steamer down*, and no more will country: "*Lettuce* have reform!" Thus proving himself in that respect "a dead *beet*" thoroughly *soured*. Then, finding himself in this *range*, *pickle*-let him look for consolation to his confederate friends, who *mustard* their forces in his behalf, and were always so ready to as *salt* and *pepper* black republicans (especially when said republicans refused to *cel*-ery vote, and were unable to *rice* in self defense) or, failing to enlist the sympathies of said black republicans, indignless turn from them with a *rye* face and seek relief by getting *corned* on *cobs* biers; Then, *stalk*-ing forth, with *husk* y voice he will exclaim: "What an old fool I have been! In view of my past record, and that of my party, I can now see what a ridiculous *figure* I must have cut as the democratic *candy*-*date* raising such a Hew(it) and cry about reform. It is true that there has been much *wind* in my favor but the *currants* were all *fixed*. I was led to be-*leave* that I would soon be in very tall *clover*, and feeling that I would not ask for *more*, was about to be made so, when I found it all cut and dried for Hayes) thus leaving me with a for-*lawn* hope of a second crop. I thought I "knew beans" and have therefore been *hoeing out* the *barrel*, supposing all would be *Till'd in*, but the planting being overdone and the poles upset, the harvest has'nt amounted to *shucks*. So now let me have *peas*.

GRANGER.

Pittsburgh Mortuary Report.

Dr. Snively, Physician to the Board of Health, reports that there were fifty deaths in the city during the week ending December 23d. During the previous week the mortality aggregated sixty.

Causes of death—Measles, 1; scarlet fever, 1; diphtheria, 1; hooping cough, 1; small-pox, 3; phthisic pulmonalis, 8; meningitis, 1; congestion of the brain, 1; apoplexy, 1; paralysis, 1; softening of brain, 1; infantile convulsions, 3; heart (disease not specified), 3; asthma, 1; croup, 3; bronchitis 1; bronchial catarrh, 1; pneumonia, 7; congestion of lungs, 1; œdemaglottides, 1; choledechous, 1; jaundice, 1; premature birth, 2; old age, 1; debility, 4; alcohol (intemperance), 1; burn, 1; fracture of skull, 1; fracture of leg, 1; unknown, 1.

Colored—White, males, 21; females, 29; total, 50.

Social Relations—Married, 16; single, 32; widows, 2.

Nativity—Pittsburgh, 28; other parts of United States, 5; England, 3; Germany, 9; Ireland, 4; Wales, 1; total, 50.

Age—Under one year, 11; from one to two years, 4; two to five, 10; five to ten, 2; ten to fifteen, 2; twenty to thirty, 6; thirty to forty, 1; forty to fifty, 5; fifty to sixty, 3; sixty to seventy, 6; seventy to eighty, 3; eighty to ninety, 1.

Local cities—City wards, 48; Municipal Hospital, 1; Orphan Asylum, 1; total, 50.

Protestantism in France.

The Paris correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* writes: "The Ultramontane party will perhaps some day reunder justice to the Bishop of Gap, and acknowledge the wisdom of that prelate in calling upon Catholics not to embrace any political code in an absolute manner. The Liberals, irritated with the conduct of her opponents in despotic institutions, are become indifferent, or are quitting her altogether. Among the laboring classes in Paris there is a very decided movement in favor of Protestantism, and several of the Reformed churches are attended by Catholics, who, without openly breaking communion with their own church, prefer the doctrines of John Calvin to the Syllabus. M. Savary gives us a curious account of a wholesale conversion which appears to have taken place in the Department of the Ain. In the village of St. Maurice de Gourdans was a schoolmaster who gave general satisfaction to the inhabitants. He was suddenly removed, at the instigation, it is supposed, of the curate. The villagers sent a deputation to their Bishop to demand the dismissal of the curé, but the Bishop refused to receive the delegates. Their next step was to go to Lyons and ask the Synod to evangelize their parish. The next Sunday two pastors repaired to St. Maurice de Gourdans, and all the big-wigs of the place, with the Mayor at their head, were converted, to the number of one hundred and fifty." A committee has been formed to receive further adhesions."

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 27, 1876.

Financial business continues to be limited to routine transactions, except such as have reference to transactions for the opening year. Money is in fair demand for settlements, but as the banks are free lenders and the accommodation is generally understood to be for short periods only, there is no material stiffening of rates, which continue at the stereotyped figures of 7@9 per cent. on prime commercial paper and 6@7 on first-class collaterals. We are again at the season of annual meetings of corporations when their reports are read and boards of directors elected. In connecion with these meetings the Philadelphia *Times* makes the following pointed commentary on the usual method of holding them: "Many of these meetings are appointed at the same hour on the same day and at places widely separated. To fill all these appointments properly would seem to require that investors should be gifted with the divine attributes of omniscience, to understand long columns of figures by intuition and omnipresence, to be in half a dozen places at once. They should have also the hundred arms of Briareus to deposit simultaneously that number of votes. Seriously, if stockholders are to choose their officers intelligently, these assemblings together should be more fairly distributed throughout the year as the best method of doing away with the farce of boards of directors electing and perpetuating themselves."

—The opinion is expressed by some of the New York bankers who are members of the syndicate for funding part of the old five-twenty 6 per cent. loans of the Government into new 4½ per cents, that the loan is nearly or quite suspended, and there is no decided prospect of its revival until the political complications growing out of the Presidential election are adjusted. The present price of the 4½ per cents is about 108, and gold is quoted at about 107¾. At those rates the negotiation is nearly at a standstill. The business of funding the new loan was begun September 1, under a contract between some of the leading American and foreign bankers and the United States Government, by which the syndicate were to have $40,000,000 of the bonds and as many more of the $300,000,000 authorized by law as they should call for prior to March 4, 1877, the Government agreeing to call in six per cent. bonds as fast as the new bonds were disposed of. During September the syndicate disposed of $40,000,000, and the same amount of 6 per cent. bonds was called in. During the first ten days of October $10,000,000 of the 4½ per cents were disposed of, and the same amount of the old issue was called in.

—The following is the text of Stephens' new coinage bill, recently offered in the Lower House of Congress:

WHEREAS, The metric system of coinage, based on the gram as the unit of weight, is now almost universally acknowledged to be the best: and,

WHEREAS, The gold coinage of the United States can be brought to exact conformity with the metric system by a change amounting to less than one-third of one per centum; therefore,

Be it enacted, etc., That the gold here after coined by the United States shall contain, for each dollar of denominative value, one and one half grains of pure gold, and shall weigh, for each dollar, one and two-thirds grains, the proportion of alloy to the entire weight being kept as ten to one.

Sec. 2. That such coins shall be legal tender for all debts and dues from and to the United States of any amount, and that, in case of all other payments, including those of the United States in its ordinary business, $1,003 of this new coinage shall be the legal equivalent of $1,000 of the old coinage of the United States—such being the actual relative values.

Sec. 3. That such coins shall have stamped upon them, in addition to other devices, the weight in grains, and the inscription, "Nine-tenths fine."

—Money is now quoted in the leading market centers of the world at the following rates:

	Bank rate.	Open market.
	per cent.	per cent.
New York	6@7	5@6
London	2	1¾@3
Paris	3	2
Berlin	4½	3
Frankfort	4½	3
Vienna	4½	4½
Lisbon	6	6
Copenhagen	5	6
St. Petersburg	6	8@9
Brussels	2½	2½

—The Philadelphia *Ledger* says that the official announcement a week ago of the settlement of the railroad troubles has had a strengthening influence on the railroad and miscellaneous share speculation. The shares of the coal carrying companies have also been steadily stronger all the past week.

—The proposed reduction of the capital of the National Bank of Commerce, in New York, will leave the Bank of Montreal the wealthiest moneyed institution doing business in that city. The capital is stated as $12,000,000 and the surplus as $5,500,000 The concern is already at the head of the incorporated foreign exchange drawers.

—The New York Court of Appeals has affirmed the right of the Tax Commissioners of that State to tax bank capital at an estimated actual value greater than par.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day Furnished by the Fifth National Bank No. 16 Sixth street:

December 27, 1876.	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	12:30 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.
Gold	107¼	107¼	107¼	107¼	107¼
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup.	117⅜	117⅜			117½
5-20's, 1865	114½	114½			114½
5-20's, 1865, new	115⅛	115⅛			115⅛
5-20's, 1867 registered	116⅛	116⅛			116⅛
5-20's, 1867, coupon	116⅛	116⅛			116⅛
5-20's, 1868, registered	117⅛	117⅛			117⅛
5-20's, 1868	117⅜	117⅜			117⅜
10-40's, registered	113⅛	113⅛			113⅛
10-40's, coupon	113⅛	113⅛			113⅛
Currency 6's	121½	121½			121½
7-30's, 1st series	109	109			109
Western Union Tel	71⅝	71¾	71¾	71¾	71¾
Pacific Mail	24	24	24	24	24
Adams Express	102½				98
Wells-Fargo Express	88½				88½
American Express	52				52
United States Express	82½				82½
New York Central	101⅝	100⅝	101¼	101⅛	101⅛
Erie	45⅝	45⅝	45⅝	45⅝	45⅝
Michigan Central	90½				90½
Michigan Southern	63½	63	63½	60⅞	61
Illinois Central	93⅝				93⅝
Cleveland & Pittsburgh					86¾
Pittsburgh & Fort Wayne					131½
Rock Island	102½	102			102
St. Paul common					51⅝
St. Paul preferred	51⅝	51⅛	51⅛	51⅛	51⅛
Wabash common					
Fort Wayne	100½				
Ohio and Mississippi	38				
Union Pacific					
Harlem	137	137	137	138	
New Jersey					107
Hannibal & St. Jos	13				
Iron Mountain	12¾				
C., C. & I. C.	35				
Del., Lack. & West	94				94
Mariposa 6's					71¾
Mariposa preferred					107

—The following is the report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

Stocks.	Bid.	Asked.	Sales.
Pennsylvania Central	47⅜	47½	
Reading			195
United Cos. of N. J	137		
Phila. Tit'le & Buffalo		8¾	
Lehigh Valley	46	46¼	
Allegheny Valley	105	105½	
Central Transportation	40¼	41	
P., C. & St. L. m. b	81½		

(By Associated Press.)

Gold Closed at 107⅛.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, December 27.—Money in demand at 6@7 per cent. for call loans, closing at 5@6. Prime mercantile paper 8 @6 per cent. Customs receipts $300,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $2,000,000. Clearings $20,500,000. Sterling 482¾@483½.

GOLD.

Gold opened and closed at 107¼, with sales at 107. Carrying rates 7, 6½, 6 and 7; gold 5@4 per cent. Silver remains unchanged in London since Friday last, when it was quoted at 56¾d per ounce; here to-day quotations are 109@111 for silver bars, 122 gold and 130¾ currency; silver coin 122½@122¾.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bonds active and steady. Railroad bonds firm with a small transactions. State bonds quiet and nominal. The stock market was irregular and lower prices prevailed in the general list, closing dull. The greatest decline was in Michigan Central and New York Central, the former dropping from 63½ to 61 and the latter from 102½ to 100¾, with closing sales respectively at 61½ and 101. Chairman Vanderbilt was reported worse. New Jersey Central made the next greatest decline, selling down from 37¾ to 35¾, closing at the latter. Lake Shore and Michigan Central were firm and advanced early in the day, but afterwards lost the improvement; Lake Shore rose from 57¼ to 58 and closed at 57¾; Michigan Central rose from 45 to 45¾ and declined to 44¾; Rock Island was firm at 102@102¼; Delaware, Lackawanna and Western rose from 71¼ to 71⅝, and later declined to 71¼, the remainder of the list declined from ¼ to ½ per cent. Late in the afternoon there were rumors on the street of two defalcations of an extensive character. Transactions at the Stock Exchange aggregated 66,000 shares, of which 20,300 were Lake Shore, 3,700 New York Central; 2,000 Erie, 3,300 St. Paul, 2,100 Union Pacific, 2,500 Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, 2,600 New Jersey Central, 13,300 Michigan Central and 2,700 Illinois Central. The following were the closing quotations:

Stocks.	Bid.	Asked.
West. Union Tel.	71¾	
Quicksilver	12	
Do. preferred	30	
Pacific Mail	23¾	
Mariposa	6¾	
Do. preferred	14	
Adams Express	102½	
Wells-Fargo Ex	89	
American Ex	56¾	
United States Ex	82¾	
New York Central	101⅝	100⅝
Erie	45⅝	45¾
Michigan Central	61½	62
Illinois Central	93⅝	93¾
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	86¾	
Pittsburgh & Fort Wayne	131½	
Chicago & Alton	87½	
Do. preferred	105	
Chicago & Rock Island	102	
Pittsburgh & Connellsville	51⅝	51¾
Delaware, Lackawanna & Western	71⅛	71¼
Northern Central	47	
Northern Pacific	37	
Do. preferred	51½	
Ohio & Mississippi	38	
Ontario	13	
Panama	125	
Lake Shore	57¾	
Illinois Central	61¼	Union Pac. stock.. 59
Central Pac. bonds	109	
Union Pac. bonds	106	
Do. land grants	100½	
Do. S. F. bonds	91	
Missouri 6's	107	Florida $3 50
Tennessee, old	42	Virginia, old
Tennessee, new	41¾	Missouri 6's
Virginia, new	39	

LONDON, December 27, 5 P. M.—The rate of discount in open market for three months' bills is 1¾ per cent., being below the Bank of England rate. Consols 93 15-16. United States bonds—5-20's, 1865, 104½; do. 1867, 108½; 10-40's, 108½; new 5's, 107. Railroad securities—New York Central 102; Erie 9½; preferred 17.

PARIS, December 27.—Rentes 104 francs 90 centimes.

FRANKFORT, December 27.—United States bonds—New 5's 101⅝.

NEW ORLEANS, December 27.—Gold 107½@107¾. Sight exchange on New York ¼ per cent. discount. Sterling exchange 517½.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } WEDNESDAY, December 27, 1876.

The leading staples were chiefly noticeable for the steadiness and quiet which obtained in all cases. Prices were unchanged with the exceptions of an advance of ½c on roasted coffees, and the usual holiday quiet was the most prominent feature. In some of the leading articles of produce there was a decided increase of the volume of receipts—corn, oats, hay, bulkmeats and cheese having each come in more freely during the week ending to-day.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce in this city since our last are as follows:

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bbls	2,069	Apples, bbls	12
Corn, bus	2,520	Cheese, bxs	94
Wheat, bus	2,160	Butter, pkgs	153
Barley, bus	934	Bacon, pcs	13,061
Rye, bus	484	Bacon, tcs	30
Oats, bus	3,960	Potatoes, bus	850
Hay, bales	532		

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce during the past two weeks:

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bbls	8,796	7,605	16,401
Apples, bbls	76	131	207
Cheese, bxs	474	1,228	1,702
Corn, bus	4,436	7,475	11,911
Wheat, bus	8,540	6,751	15,291
Barley, bus	12,859	3,914	16,773
Rye, bus	1,960	1,287	3,247
Oats, bus	14,553	24,468	39,021
Hay, bales	753	1,156	1,909
Bacon, pcs	17,246	34,408	51,654
Bacon, tcs	224	142	366
Potatoes, bus	600	850	1,450
Hay, bales	835	1,174	2,009

The quotations given in the following reports are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will generally advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free in elevator.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

GRAIN—There is a steady market with a rather quiet feeling and prices steady and unchanged. Wheat is firm at former figures. We quote Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania red wheat at $1 40@1 45 ₩ bushel; amber do $1 45; white $1 45@1 50. Corn continues in fair demand and firm, with only nearly out of the market, while ear is in improving supply. Prices are steady, as follows: Old shelled 60@57c ₩ bushel for prime yellow; new do, mixed; new ear 55@56c; prime new shelled 53@54c. Oats are offered more freely, but remain about steady, as follows: Old for prime white; mixed 38@38c. Rye is in good supply and up to the demand, and quoted at 70@76c. Barley is unchanged and quiet at 90c for choice; 75@80c for good to prime spring; prime fall $1 00@1 10; lobbing sales at the customary advance.

FLOUR—There is a very firm feeling with an upward tendency at the following prices: No. 1 white wheat flour at $7 25@7 50 ₩ barrel; No 1 amber do $7 00@7 25; No. 2 do $6 50@6 75; No. 3 do $6 00@6 25; No. 4 do $5 50@5 75; Wisconsin & Minnesota do $6 50@7 25; Kansas do St. Louis $8 75@9 25; Graham flour $6 50@6 75; cornmeal 3c ₩ bushel; oatmeal $6 75 ₩ barrel; kegs $3 00; rye flour $5 00@5 25.

HAY—Receipts are more liberal and the market is slightly easier. Prices are materially changed. We quote at $12 00@16 00 ₩ ton. No. 1 timothy $15 00@16 00; No. 2 do $13 00@14 00; No. 1 mixed $13 00@14 00; No. 2 do $11 00@12 00; No. 1 prairie $11 00@12 00; No. 2 do $9 00@10 00; packing hay $8 00; baled straw $10 00@12 00.

MILL FEED—Is steady at the following rates: Bran $12 50@13 00 per ton; middlings $20 00@ 22 00; screenings and shipstuffs $15 00@17 00; chopped feed $20 00@22 00.

Country Produce.

APPLES—Are quiet and unchanged. Receipts are very light, but there is an ample stock in store, and the diminution of receipts does not produce any improvement in prices. We quote at 75c@$1 25 ₩ bbl for common to prime.

APPLE BUTTER—Is dull also, and held at 40@ 45c ₩ gallon.

BEESWAX—Are dull and quoted at 28@30c ₩ lb.

E. BEANS—Are in fair demand at $1 90@2 00 for prime white.

BROOM-CORN—Is in some demand in small lots, with considerable offering. Nothing done yet; immediate shipment $3 00@4 00.

BOUSEVILLE, December 27.—Market quiet and weak at $3 25@3 50.

BUTTER—The demand continues brisk for choice packages, and the receipts are large. The supply of such stock is not at all in excess of the demand. Medium and common qualities are dull and heavy. We quote at 40@42c for creamery rolls at 28@30c; prime to choice solid packed dairies do roll 26@28c; choice dairy rolls 24@26c.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Is moderately active and steady, at former figures, viz: at $3 75@4 00 ₩ bbl.

CHEESE—Receipts are increased to 1,225 boxes for the past week, but prices are steady and unchanged as follows: Prime Ohio fac tory at 13½c; New York factory at 13½@14c; prime to choice solid packed dairies do roll 20@22c; choice dairy rolls 18@20c.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Is moderately active and steady, at former figures, viz: at $3 75@4 00 ₩ bbl.

CRANBERRIES—The supply is sufficient and prices are steady at $8 00@9 00 ₩ barrel; $2 75@3 50 ₩ bushel.

CIDER—The demand is fair and supply liberal. Prices range from $5 50@6 50, not including, for common; $4 00@5 00 for extra choice.

DRIED FRUIT—Are dull and prices as previously given. We may quote dried apples nominal at 2½@3c; sliced do 3½@4c; peaches, fancy; dried peaches 11@12c; evaporated peaches 25c.

DRIED PEAS—There is a good demand for new crop at $1 50@1 75 per bushel.

EGGS—Are in demand moderately active with a fair supply and steady and unchanged prices. Strictly fresh are steady at 30c ₩ dozen, and scarce; pickled are plenty at 22@23c.

FEATHERS—Choice are quoted at 60@65c in wholesale lots; fancy do 50@55c.

GAME—There is a liberal supply but the demand is good and prices are steady and unchanged, as follows: Rabbits 25@30c per pair; do hares 18@20c ₩ lb; whole deer 10 @12c ₩ lb; saddles do 12@14c; venison 8@9c; Pheasants $3 00@3 50 per dozen. Prairie fowl $4 00@4 50 per dozen. Rabbits 25@30c per pair.

HOPS—There is no change to report in the market for new California at 22@23c ₩ lb; domestic 20c ₩ lb.

HORS—New crop, 35@36c. Market dull and little doing.

STRAW—Is in good supply and the market is easy. We quote chestnuts at $5 00 ₩ bushel; walnuts $4 00@5 00; hickory nuts $1 50@1 75 ₩ bushel; shellbarks $1 50@2 25.

ONIONS—The market is about steady at $1 75 @2 00 ₩ barrel.

POULTRY—The supply is light and prices show an upward tendency with some advance. We quote as follows: Chickens by the coop 5@6c; do dressed 7@8c; ducks 7@8c; turkeys 7½@8c each; dressed 14@15c ₩ lb. Ducks 45@50c ₩ pair; dressed 10@13c ₩ lb. Geese 50@60c each.

POTATOES—Receipts continue very meager and the market is fully up to the demand. Prime to choice Peerless in store at $1 25@1 50 ₩ bushel; lower grades 90c@$1 05.

VINEGAR—There is a moderate demand at 17 @20c ₩ gallon for prime country stock; 14@15c for best city make.

Provisions.

There is a moderately good demand at steady prices, chiefly for the requirements of the immediate consumptive demand. Prices remain steady and wholly unchanged. Receipts of hog products are light, amounting to 468 pieces during the week ending to-day, while the receipts in tierces only amount to 142 tierces for the same period.

BACON—The market is steady. Jobbing quotations are as follows: Shoulders ₩ pound; short rib sides 10c; clear sides 10½c.

CUT AND CURED MEATS—Hams were easy at 12½c ₩ lb for sugar-cured; 11 @12c for fast bacon rules easy and we quote sugar-cured as 13@14c; sugar-cured shoulders 9½c; dried beef, sugar-cured, was firm at 14½c. Beef tong

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1876.

THE exports from Philadelphia to foreign ports, last week, were of an aggregate value of $812,660.

ESPECIAL precautions should be taken to prevent fires in churches, theaters and other public buildings during these Christmas holidays, when they are profusely decorated with combustible materials.

THE golden fleece. As the gold yield of Australia decreases, the wool crop grows more valuable. Last year the wool product of that country was $70,000,000, more than four times as much as its gold product.

CRONIN, according to current reports, is gifted with "a nose of gigantic proportions and the color of a dead-ripe strawberry." There are at least a thousand bottles of brandy concentrated in that nose, which blazes like a beacon light afar.

THE United States District Court of Virginia has just rendered a somewhat singular decision to the effect that money deposited in a savings bank, even under an agreement that it shall be a separate and special deposit, is liable for the general debts of the bank.

ON TUESDAY night last, after a hot and protracted debate, the Board of School Controllers in Reading decided after the 22d inst. to abolish the colored schools, and admit the colored scholars to the schools in their wards. This action was taken upon a petition from a large number of colored citizens.

WE DO not believe there is anything in the telegrams sent out by the National Republican Committee during the campaign that every member of the committee is not entirely willing should be made public. But how about the dispatch said to have been sent by Tea-kettle HEWITT, ordering seven more mules?

THE Toledo *Blade* well says that the first white man hanged in the South for the murder of a colored one will do more to convince the North of the good faith of the Southerners in carrying out the letter and spirit of the constitutional amendments, than all the platforms and speeches that could be loaded on a freight train.

THERE are fresh complaints from the West about the scarcity of railroad cars for shipments of grain eastward. There would seem to be a purpose in this withholding of cars which ought to be examined into. At least, the wants of the commerce of the West in this respect would appear to be not more than half supplied.

THERE is a reprehensible element of weakness in the Republican party that defers in a quasi way to Democratic vituperation against the leading representatives of republican principles and progress. It is time that this ceased. The crisis demands backbone. Let Republicans think firm, stand firm and act firm, and HAYES will be President.

OVER three hundred thousand dollars was realized from the recent sale of a private collection of paintings, etchings and engravings, in New York city. This speaks well for the love of art in this country when we consider the general depression of trade, and it is a subject for congratulation that so many splendid specimens of the fine arts are to be retained in the United States.

IT is to be hoped that the bill lately introduced in Congress providing for an appropriation of $250,000 for the blind, intended to benefit this class of unfortunates in every State of the Union, may pass. It is a measure of wise and comprehensive philanthropy, inasmuch as it contemplates a more thorough system for the education of over thirty thousand blind persons in the United States.

IN assuming the right to disclose the secrets of the telegraph office, the Democratic House undertakes to nullify the American revolution. "No taxation without representation" was not dearer to the revolutionary fathers than the principle of the inviolability of the mails. The modern telegraph occupies precisely the same relative position to the business and confidence of the people.

ACCORDING to the annual report of the Register of the Treasury, the registered tonnage of the country has increased during the past fiscal year nearly forty thousand tons, which shows that with the cost of shipbuilding at fifty-five dollars a ton there is business doing and trade going on and even increasing; a fact that should reassure the croakers who forebode greater disaster than our commerce has yet encountered.

CONGRESSMAN LONG, of Ohio, is one of the most indignant of the indignant Democrats. The Cincinnati *Times* recalls the suggestive fact that on April 9, 1864, in consequence of treasonous utterances by Mr. LONG, the House of Representatives, after first contemplating his expulsion, finally adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That said Alexander Long, a Representative in the third district of Ohio, be, and he is hereby, declared to be an unworthy member of the House of Representatives.

AN intelligent colored voter of Florida recently, in conversing with a Northern visitor upon the negro vote in that State, said: "I did mean to vote for the Republican President and the Democratic Governor because I knew and liked him. But when I found they were trying to force us I just voted the straight Republican ticket. Tell you, sir, *the Republican party changed me from property to a voter, and I ain't a going back on it now.*" This expresses about what the colored voters of all the Southern States feel.

THE New York *Public* compiles the figures of grain shipments for the season of 1876—that is, thirty-four weeks up to December 9th, when the season was practically over—and the showing is decidedly t New York. It is as follows:

	Corn.		All Grain.	
	1876.	1875.	1876.	1875.
	5,244,317	15,550,073	24,248,806	26,307,047
	1,215,161	3,568,400	25,838,550	13,015,115
	3,348	4,702,999	16,900,896	12,464,043
	000	3,001,930	10,826,935	9,875,424
	981	1,402,104	15,361,959	17,281,777
	000	484,824	2,170,504	2,105,208
	787	29,520,034	154,017,729	131,045,814

says thus his letters bore evi- having been tampered with in New York postoffice, but that he has destroyed the envelopes that bore the evidence. If he *had* such evidence, and then wilfully destroyed it, he should have had sense enough not to have made a charge which he had voluntarily rendered himself incapable of proving. It is beyond possibility of belief that a man possessed of such proof would be guilty of the folly of destroying it. The natural presumption, therefore, is that HEWITT lies.

WE don't know whether the Creek Indians have heard of the threatened impeachment of "the Great Father" by the Democratic House, but the Council of that nation has impeached its present Chief on the charges of having disobeyed the orders of the Council, and for having misapplied the funds of the nation to private purposes. The Chief was impeached by the House of Warriors, a branch equivalent to our House of Representatives, and he is now undergoing trial before the "House of Kings," a branch corresponding with our Senate. Meantime he has been suspended.

THE Democratic press is fastidious. The term "bulldozing" mightily offends its delicate sensibilities. Suppose we supersede it with the term "suasion," after the manner of the old Louisiana negro who had voted the Democratic ticket. A Republican asked him why he had done so. Said he, "I done voted de Democratic ticket 'cause they 'suaded me. You know I allus vote de Publican ticket, but dis time dey 'suaded me." "Well, how did they persuade you? What did they say to you?" "Why, dey didn't say much 'o nuffin. Two o' dem jes come up an' put a big bore pistol each side o' my head, and give me a Democrat ticket, an' told me to walk straight up to de polls an' vote it or dey would blow de roof o' my head right off. An' I tell you, chile, dey 'suaded me—dey 'suaded me."

SOUTHERN PATRIOTISM.

While we think it all right to give good heed to all the protests of Southern politicians against a resort to war to enforce political claims, we think it quite possible to put too much confidence in such expressions of personal opinion. Ben. HILL, and Mr. LAMAR, and Mr. KEY, of Tennessee, and Major SHELBY, of Missouri, all talk like sensible and patriotic men in ridiculing the war threatenings of Northern Democrats and in deprecating the use of threats in settling grave political complications; but it must be taken into account that these four are too small a portion of the South to be considered as qualified to speak for it. One swallow does not make a summer, and a half-dozen sensible Southern men do not make the sentiment of that large section of the country. The South *may* be with them, as we sincerely hope it *is;* but, so far, it has given no open sign of agreement with them.

In like manner the concurrent expressions of a few prominent Southern newspapers, deprecating force and leaving to the North the initiation of the policy of resistance to the inauguration of HAYES, must not be construed either too liberally or too literally. The utmost that can be said of these papers is not that they are opposed to the policy of a new rebellion, but that they are opposed to the South taking the initiative in it. If such a rebellion were but once begun these papers would be the biggest devils in sustaining and promoting its prosecution. So far as the press of the South is concerned we see little as yet to hope for.

That the South, generally, and its thinking men, particularly, have a realizing sense of the horrors of war and of the ruin it brings in its train, we do not doubt. The men who have suffered from the war must have a keen remembrance of it, and a consequently keen dread of its repetition. This is, at the present time, the predominant feeling in the South; but how long will it last, and what effect will it have, should the Democratic leaders at the North cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war? Upon these instructions they will cry, and let slip as aforesaid.

A BILL has been introduced in Congress to establish uniformity of law respecting bills of lading in all ports of the country. At present each State has its separate laws relative to these instruments; these laws frequently conflict; and hence there constantly arise difficulties, the effect of which is to seriously interfere with the negotiability of these titles to property. Embarrassing law suits have often arisen from these differences of law or of usage, and some of the decisions of local courts have been so manifestly inequitable as to make bankers and others very cautious about advancing money upon documents of such an uncertain character. The New York *Bulletin* says:

It seems marvellous that this confusion upon a matter so vital to the convenience of business should have been so long tolerated. It is as essential that there should be uniformity in this matter as that we should have uniformity in the currency itself. A bill of lading, in fact, should be so guarded by Federal law as that it becomes a sort of currency, an instrument passing from hand to hand without risk or obstruction, and facilitating the general transfer of merchandise. It not only represents property but confers on the holder a direct title to it; and should therefore constitute one of the most acceptable of negotiable instruments. But it can never be such when it is one thing under one set of laws and a different thing under another. The right of Congress to enact laws on this matter is beyond question. If that section of the Constitution which confers on Congress the authority "to regulate commerce between the States" means anything, it must contemplate the regulation of a matter so common to inter-State intercourse and which so vitally needs uniformity of usage and of legal status.

THE Washington correspondent of the New York *Times* says:

There are growing signs that the Democrats are expecting to rest their case wholly upon the electoral vote of Louisiana. There may probably have been no policy determined upon in this respect, but the general drift of the Democratic mind is toward that issue. They will not insist upon counting the vote of Cronin, in Oregon, for Tilden, neither will they seriously demand to have it rejected, and will make very little, if any, use of the Oregon case. They are expecting nothing from the investigations in South Carolina, although they will make as much as possible out of the evidence they obtain there. They have a slight hope that in Florida the committee may be able to make out a case upon which the Democracy can hang some claims; but Florida is not regarded as likely to give them any aid. In Louisiana, however, they believe that their committees can obtain such evidence that they will be able to make a strong case before the country, and to convince all their own people, at least, that Tilden was cheated out of his electoral vote by the action of the Returning Board. The committees of the other States are required to do as well as they can for the Democrats, but no excuses for a failure in Louisiana will be received or tolerated. In Louisiana nothing will be allowed to stand in the way of a report to the House of the very strongest character asserting Tilden's election, and on that they will undertake to rest their case and demand the inauguration of Tilden. All the Republicans who were in Louisiana during the counting of the votes are agreed that it is absolutely impossible for the committee to damage the Republican case.

THE Milwaukee *Sentinel* is outspoken in its opposition to the Steamboat law, and its evident purpose to help the patentees of certain inventions. It says:

There is a bill pending in the Senate of the United States which proposes to require every steamer and sailing vessel navigating the ocean, or any lake, river, bay or sound, to be provided with a relief-valve and a spray-nozzle, patented by certain parties who are named in the act. We do not assume to know anything about the merits of these inventions, but it seems that a vigorous protest should go up from some source against this habit of taxing the merchant marine for the benefit of the patentees of every contrivance of this kind. The power of Congress over navigation has been abused to compel the owners of vessels to purchase all manner of appliances whenever a pretext can be found that they will promote the better security of life and property. Some of them may be very valuable to this end, and the relief valve and spray-nozzle may be of the number; but before Congress imposes a tax of $100 upon every vessel in the country, there ought to be a strong assurance that sufficient reasons exist. We speak in no spirit of hostility to the patentees, who are Milwaukee parties, and in whose prosperity we should take great pleasure, but because there seems to be need of a remonstrance against the principle as a matter of justice to the shipping interest.

WE publish in another column an article from the New York *Public*, proposing an entirely new remedy for the Presidential complication, and give it more for the purpose of showing what ingenuity can invent than because of any particular merit in the plan proposed.

The first objection to it is that it concedes the right of either House to object to and throw out the vote of any State. We do not believe in the existence of any such right, and feel sure its concession will be fatal to any attempt at an amicable settlement. And the second objection is, that any scheme to prolong debate in the Senate over propositions to throw out votes until after the fourth of March, and then throw the election into the new House, would be revolutionary, and would be found utterly impracticable in execution. The purpose would be so plain as to provoke the very resistance it is sought to evade, and the attempt would end in disgrace to all parties concerned in it.

There is but one way to settle this question, and that is to adhere to the provisions of the Constitution literally and strictly. Any departure from the letter of that instrument will involve any party concerned in it in calamitous defeat.

VALUABLE testimony to the superior quality of American iron is borne by the United States Chief of Ordnance, in his annual report. The experience of the last few years has shown the great superiority of rifled guns over smooth bores, and the different Governments are as rapidly as possible substituting the former for the latter in their armaments. In this country efforts are being made to utilize the old cast iron smooth bores by converting them into rifles. The process which meets with most favor is to use coiled wrought iron tubes. These tubes have hitherto been imported, but a trial of a gun with a tube of domestic manufacture has demonstrated conclusively that our product is equal to the imported, notwithstanding the long experience in such work in English shops. The eight inch rifle with an American tube has successfully withstood over five hundred rounds with battering charges, and remains in serviceable condition. Up to date, three guns of this class have been tested with the most satisfactory results, two of eight inch and one of nine inch caliber, all converted from ten inch smoothbores.

THERE is a constitutional tempest in a teapot in little Denmark. The troubles which have been brewing for sometime between the King and his Parliament have within the past few days reached a point which is regarded as critical. The Radicals, so called, have a large majority in the Chamber, and in the Financial bill their select committee has not only stricken out or largely reduced every item demanded by the Government, but incorporated in their report personal insults against some of the ministers. The King is advised to dissolve the session, which would be the third time since the trouble began, and the Radicals urge resistance to the collection of taxes if necessary by force. The whole matter at issue may be stated in a single sentence. It is whether the ministry is responsible to each House, or whether it may retain office so long as it retains the confidence of the Upper House. In Great Britain the retention of office by the ministry under such circumstances would be an act grossly unconstitutional, and there would have been a revolution long ago. But Denmark, though constitutionally governed, is not Great Britain.

THE annual report of the State Auditor of Ohio, just published, shows that the State has $1,105,896 less taxable property than she had last year, though the banks, under the new law, have been rated at nearly three millions more. The total assessment of taxable property for this is $1,597,469,966. The increase in tate in cities and towns has be 377, and in real estate in t $8,050,946. But against this is set a decrease in chattels amounting to $14,979,219, resulting in the net decrease stated. From 1862 to 1876 there was a steady decrease, this being the first year with a decrease, due, of course, to a shrinkage of values. The State debt has decreased from $8,583,546 37, in 1872, to $6,482,840 30 in 1876; the debts of counties from $3,756,436 03 to $2,934,099 43, and the debts of townships from $447,238 10 to $222,724 83. But the debts of cities of the first and second class have increased from $11,495,591 04 to $30,510,503 68. So there has been a net increase of debts over last year of $10,102,978 56, principally in Cincinnati.

THE Director of the United States Mint reports that the purchases of the Government for silver since the first of October, have been to the amount of $5,000,000, and that the average price paid has been fifty-four pence per ounce, which gives the Government a great advantage over the present condition of the market. In this connection we observe that German financiers are talking about coining a new trade dollar. Within the next three years the Government will have to sell over fifteen millions sterling of coin of great fineness, and the theory is that it will be advantageous to make the trade dollars of the same degree of fineness, so that they will be taken in the East Indies and China in preference to coins of a lower standard. It will be a pretty big job, however, to crowd out the American trade dollar which San Francisco has been pouring into those countries.

WE HAVE shown that there are really no American precedents for Governor GROVER'S position in favor of the election of CRONIN in Oregon, and that his only reliance was upon English precedents; but even that reliance is swept away by the following from the London *Times* of December 1:

It has been discovered that some of those who have received the highest number of votes in certain States are ineligible because they are office holders; and it has been rashly said that those next below them must occupy their places as electors. This is not the electoral law of England. *Votes are not thrown away unless the voters are aware of the disqualification of a candidate;* if they are unaware of the disqualification of a man who comes out at the top, the election becomes a void election as far as his seat is concerned.

As the disqualification of WATTS, in Oregon, was *not* known to the voters, the votes for him, according to the English rule, were *not* thrown away.

IT is reported in the New York papers that Mr. ORTON will refuse to produce the copies of telegrams in his possession, and will insist that the rights of the public, as opposed to the pretensions of the House, should be settled by the courts. It is perfectly obvious, says the *Times*, that the control of a telegraph company over a message intrusted to its care ceases the moment the message has been delivered to the person to whom it has been addressed. The preservation of copies for a year or two is a mere matter of business convenience, and there is nothing to prevent, either now or at any future time, the wholesale destruction of all duplicates on the company's files. Mr. ORTON is probably quite well aware of the legal strength of his position, and, from intimations given out by his friends, we should judge that he is prepared to stand by it.

THE Baltimore *American* notices that the movement in Philadelphia in favor of removing the State Capital from Harrisburg to Philadelphia, of which nothing will come, has stirred up the question in a number of other States where the capital is not located at the largest city. The New York papers are urging a similar exchange of New York for Albany; the Chicago journals have suddenly discovered the merits of Chicago over Springfield as the seat of government, and St. Louis thinks she would like to have her State capital brought to the banks of the Mississippi. There is one consideration, however, which in all these instances will militate greatly against these suggested changes, and that is the expense.

THE steadily increasing outlets for our dry goods fabrics give a brightening aspect to the outlook for the future. The export movement on this great staple is no longer experimental, since it has been demonstrated that it can be carried on with advantage to all concerned. It perhaps looks a little like "yarrying coal to Newcastle," to send prints and domestics to England, but if Newcastle will buy coal at emunerative prices, and we have coal to send, that settles the question, which is one of commercial importance. This increasing export trade constitutes an important item in the solution of the problem of renewed prosperity to the country. Given a market for our goods, and labor is employed to produce more, money is distributed, and the prostrated industries of the land are raised up again.

FEW Democrats have the prescience to comprehend the party danger of their position in claiming the right to review the action of the returning boards of South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana. If they can go behind the returns in those States, the principle is established that the Republicans, with respect to Federal elections, may also review the action of the States of Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama, or of any Southern State, where statistics and history and common sense show that the Republican party has a fair majority upon an untrammelled vote. LAMAR, of Mississippi, who will soon be knocking for admission at the doors of the United States Senate, should be made to experience the logical consequences of this Bourbon blunder.

A BAND of some five hundred Indians, known as the Platos band, who have been several years with the Comanches near the headwaters of the Brazos river, have sent word to Colonel HATCH, at Fort Sill, that they desire to go to Wescalaro Agency at Fort Stanton; that they are very poor, and that if they are transferred it will be necessary to furnish to them ten or twenty days' rations of beef, and a military escort. The most curious fact about this Platos band of Indians is that no one in the Indian Bureau has ever heard of it. No provision or supplies have ever been furnish to it, and it is not known that it has ever been in hostility against the Government. They will be furnished with an escort and rations, as requested.

SEVERAL ex-Confederate officers in St. Louis and Missouri have expressed their concurrence with Colonel SHELBY in declaring that they will stand by General GRANT against any attempt to induct TILDEN into the Presidency by force; but they all agree in expressing their conviction that there is a wide-spread conspiracy among the Democrats of Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky to get up another war under the pretext of securing the inauguration of TILDEN. They all characterize the danger as imminent; and there seems to be little doubt that there is a strong purpose, in the States named, to get up another rebellion.

THERE is a continued falling off in immigration. According to the annual report of the New York Commissioners of Emigration for the year ending December 1, the number of arrivals at that port during the year was 109,592, as compared with 135,045 in 1875. Of the entire number of arrivals 70,820 were aliens, as compared with 84,560 aliens arriving in 1875. The number of emigrants arriving from three of the leading countries in Europe in 1875 and 1876, respectively, were as follows:

	1875.	1876.
Great Britain and Ireland	44,676	30,825
German Empire	25,559	20,072
Russia	3,123	5,319

SIR SYDNEY WATERLOW has gone back on our American paper makers. He recently told a meeting in the London Corn Exchange that the best specimens of paper which he saw at Philadelphia were not equal to many of the specimens he had seen from the Maidstone district in England.—*Springfield Republican.*

If this is true, how does it come about that the paper imm[illegible]n of this country has fallen fro[illegible] to $18,880 si[illegible] 1869, while [illegible] rise[illegible] 7 to $8[illegible]

THE TEMPERANCE WORK.

Great Meeting at Library Hall—Addresses by Col. Realf and Others.

Library Hall was crowded to its utmost capacity Sunday evening to see and hear Francis Murphy, the temperance reformer, and others engaged in the work. As twenty-five cents was charged for admittance a handsome sum must have been realized. After religious exercises and a few remarks Col. Richard Realf was introduced.

COLONEL REALF'S SPEECH.

Colonel Realf said: The time draws near the birth of Christ. To-morrow is the anniversary of that wondrous star portended birth which constitutes the pivotal center on which all the Christian ages revolve. Everywhere to-night something of the spirit of those "glad tidings of great joy" then borne across the Judean plains enters into and vivifies human life and progress. Not only, the speaker said, had the name of the Nazarene passed over our institutions, but something of His Spirit had penetrated and interfused our whole political, social and domestic existence. Upon idea of universality of the Fatherhood of the Divine and the brotherhood of the human, which kindled the world now, came in with the birth of the Bethlehemite babe, striking a death blow at the root of hereditary and caste principles, and everywhere teaching that worth and dignity rest, not upon original descent, but upon character. Herod of old was a slave, though he did rule from a throne; but there was not one in all the vast audience who would dare to say that the work of that carpenter's shop at Nazareth was not noble and kingly work indeed.

The gracious memories which cluster around this hallowed season were, therefore, peculiarly calculated to stir reflection concerning our individual opportunities, duties and responsibilities, which are the correlatives of our boons and blessings, and to challenge our highest manhood and womanhood for their prompt and conscientious discharge.

It was true, as a great poet had sung: "Through the ages one increasing purpose runs, and the thoughts of men are widened with the process of the suns;" but to the end that the whole world might from age to age grow wiser and better, we were all needed. Each hand, of merchant and mechanic, of teacher and editor, of statesman and lawyer, of Episcopalian and Unitarian, of Protestant and Catholic, was required to help rear the great fabric of noble character and noble civilization. Just as, in the time-stone rock there mingled the shell of the microscopic mollusk and the dust of the mammoth mastodon, the gigantic trunk of the cone-tree and the delicate fringe of the fern, so in various upward movements that are redeeming the world are mingled the words and deeds and hopes and prayers of all—so mingling and blending that each sincere soul by any altar, and each honest heart in any field, might feel that he was an equal worker in the same true cause of quickening the slow steps of humanity and advancing its ascension toward that high ideal in which the speaker believed and hoped it somewhat beyond the sun and stars.

It was as the natural and logical result of such broodings as these that he stood there to bear witness to the sterling vitality and value of the special work in which Mr. Murphy had consecrated himself. We all were changed by slow degrees; all but the basis of the soul. Our tendencies to evil, our capacities for excellence, were alike in all classes, and Colonel Realf said he had rejoiced to observe, in Mr. Murphy's method of operation, an entire absence of that egotistic affectation of superior sanctity which some well-meaning reformers are prone to assume. No man can confer lasting benefit upon his fellows unless he sets out with a fixed determination to be a friend. Motion itself is not the world needs, and certainly Mr. Murphy is a tremendous moral impulse, as is sufficiently shown by the vast army of in temperance men who through his instrumentality have become temperate and set to rise on stepping stones of their dead selves to higher things. In the presence of such practical usefulness Colonel Realf's voice and sympathy deepened into admiration.

The speaker had no personal experiences to relate, nor did he commit himself to the movement chiefly on the score of personal safety. Possibly this was necessary; although when he thought of the singular sensitiveness of brain and nerve which accompanied the poetic and literary temperament, and of the seductive mastery of stimulents over such temperaments by reason of their power to produce, in the first stimulate, an exhilarated and creative feeling, he was by no means assured that this was not requisite. Our higher feelings move our animal nature, and this latter, irritated, can call back a semblance of those emotions; but, as had been said by a great thinker, the whole difference between nobleness and baseness lay in the question whether feeling began from above or below. The whole realm of art and literature was strewn thick with the wrecks and ruins of tempted minds that served as warning beacons to those who felt intensely, and were tempted to rekindle the altar flames, when they burned low, with earthly fires. But whether he did or did not need to commit himself to the movement on the ground of self-preservation, he had reached the conclusion that he ought to espouse it on the ground of duty toward his fellow men. *Noblesse oblige.* The more strenuous the saving will, the more imperative the obligation to exert it in behalf of those who may be halt of purpose and unmuscular of mind.

The misery of no class could be kept isolated and apart. The speaker here related a touching story of the daughter of Sir Robert Peel, the great English statesman. Her father gave her, as a Christmas present, a splendid riding habit, and went out with her on the same day for an airing, his heart swelling with paternal pride and tenderness as he rode by her side. Soon afterward she sickened and died of typhus fever of the most malignant type; and when inquiry was made as to how she caught the infection, it was discovered that the habit, purchased from a leading London tradesman, had been made up in a miserable attic, where the husband of the seamstress lay ill of fever, and that it had been used by her to cover him in his shivering fits. Thus the safety of the highest was indissolubly bound up with the condition of the lowest.

He did not presume to offer advice; but he sincerely trusted that those members of "Murphy's gang" who had known the habitual tyranny of the drinking appetite would avoid falling into that fruetul, repentant, self-accusing temper which was constantly looking backward and microscopically examining past shortcomings. This mood was a great hindrance to growth in real character. Man, tested by temptation, was like iron tried by fire. No iron bar was absolutely infrangible. No man was wholly impeccable. All we could dare to ask, even of the strongest, was how much temptation they could endure and without giving way. Life, like war, was a series of mistakes. He was not always the best man nor the best general who made the fewest false moves; but he was the best who secured the most splendid victories by the retrieval of errors. Forget failures, or rather organize victory out of them. Innocence, youth, success, error, guilt—forget them all:

"——Let the dead Past bury its dead:
Act within the living Present,
Heart within, and God o'erhead."

The feast of Christmas, continued the speaker, included, among many other beloved remembrances and delights, the apotheosis of childhood. The gracious season belonged more than any other to mothers and little children. The speaker then read a brief but wonderfully pathetic and pertinent Christmas story taken from a recent New York police report, of a mother turned out of doors by a drunken husband, with her babe upon her breast; hours of wandering in the cruel, freezing night; sinking at last upon the curbstone, exhausted by cold and hunger; and found there by a policeman, her arms pressing close to the breast that had no warmth or nourishment in it, the child—frozen stiff and stark.

No one could bring back to life the little child of the poor, heart-broken New York mother; but all could, by example and influence, do something to prevent the recurrence of similar piteous tragedies. Christmas was the brightest and cheeriest time of all the year because it brought us closer to an understanding of the Great Sacrifice made for the world by the Chief Lover of little children. The law of sacrifice was the highest law of existence. Were it not so the world would not now glow and thrill with the spirit of the divinest song that had ever sounded down across the centuries: "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will among men." Shall we put ourselves into accord with it?

Mr. Diebler, Captain Robert Pollock, Captain Barbour and others followed Colonel Realf in short speeches.

To-day Mr. Murphy will hold a temperance meeting in the First Methodist church, Fifth avenue, and dinner will be served for the reformed.

A SERIOUS CHARGE.

Three Brownsville Men Arrested for Burning a Distillery to Get the Insurance Money.

During the last week considerable excitement has been occasioned in Fayette county by the arrest of T. Benton Wilgus, his brother-in-law, David Hart and John Honesty, a colored man, on a charge of arson. It is alleged that the parties burned the Toynbee property in Brownsville last June. The administrators of the estate of Edward Toynbee, deceased, during the spring of 1876 sold at public sale said estate, consisting of a fine dwelling house and several outbuildings, and an extensive distillery, to T. B. Wilgus for about six thousand dollars. Immediately after the sale, Wilgus put the property in good repair ready for manufacturing whisky, and took policies to the amount of $18,000. In June the property burned. Wilgus, who is well known in this city, has been suspected for some years of "crookedness" in this direction. To say the least, he has been in bad—or good—luck, having been burned out four or five times, always being well insured. Wilgus has always been away from home when the fires occurred, which accounts for the arrest of the other parties, who are alleged to have done the work. The parties were taken to Uniontown and entered bail.

Sudden Death.

John F. Reynthaler, a prominent live stock dealer, of the East End, died suddenly, in Philadelphia, on Thursday last. His disease is supposed to have been apoplexy.

A CHRISTIAN CHRISTMAS.

Extracts from a Sermon by Rev. S F Scovel, Delivered at the First Presbyterian Church, Sabbath, December 24th, 1876.

Luke II, 20. And the shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all the things which they had heard and seen, as was told unto them.

It is plain that the shepherds were not careless of the great thing which had happened; nor were they forgetful of the new-found cause for thanksgiving and praise to God. The contents of the angelic revelation had been so significant; the fulfillment of the sign so exact, that they departed to their flocks again, thrilled with a solemn delight. Herein they are an example for us at this festival season. He that would not be careless and forgetful and ungrateful, too, must give heed to keeping a Christian Christmas. The Christian's Christmas is the kernel of the whole feast! It is composed of the thoughts and feelings and deeds that come straight from Christ, and for the most part consciously from him. In our

RECREATIONS AND ENJOYMENTS

we must keep a Christian Christmas. The Christian will be certain in the first place that all innocent joy is pleasing to God. God has written Joy in great letters over all the world. We see it in the mountain and the plain, in the rill and the tiny flowers, in the sun and even in the storm. Every function in life is a joy. Rejoice always—there is ever more reason to be joyous than gloomy. Especially should Christians rejoice; Christmas is the Christian's feast. God's approval is clear. The more earnest and innocent joy you can get into your life, consistent with the discharge of its serious duties, the better you will please your Heavenly Father. Our holy religion has no frowns for festivals that truly celebrate Christian facts and doctrines. But there is always needs of restraint and discretion and thoughtful discrimination in the matter of enjoyment. We are more exposed to danger in enjoyment than we are in toil. In our labor we are kept from mischief, in enjoyment we are in danger of overstepping the bounds.

The speaker referred to the earlier modes of observing the feast, and compared the change brought in time for the better.

In 1663 a carol is said to have been sung Let us dance and sing and make good cheer, For Christmas comes but once a year.

Draw hogsheads dry, let flagons fly, &c.

which much reminds one, if indeed it be not the progenitor, of the slave song heard everywhere in the South:

"Apple cider, cinnamon beer,
Christmas comes but once a year."

Human nature is much the same, and there are those yet who seem to think that "hogsheads and flagons" are indispensable to a comfortable Christmas. So much the more need, therefore, that Christian people (who ultimately control public sentiment in such matters) should learn to rejoice without losing their heads. Lower enjoyments can be sanctified. Religious reverence for the giver is sure to produce moderation in the use of the gift. We cannot use that which Christ brings us of joy, as an offense to Christ's spirit and example.

And how many pure and holy sources of joy there are without contaminating one of them by excess, or ourselves by those who are forbidden or injurious! How happy God has made the world that takes Christ for its friend, peace for its atmosphere, and God for its object of highest glory. What gladness there is in forgotten sorrow. Give up the sources of grief as well as we may, they will be lessened, or we shall be stronger when they come out again. The world says with the old English carol:

"Without the door let sorrow lye
And if for cold it hap to die,
We'll bury it in a Christmas fire
And ever more be merry."

The Christian spirit is less frolicking and more thoughtful and says, quietly: Let sorrow wait to-day. In Christ's coming there is healing balm and so much for every hungry spirit that we cannot but be thankful! How much we may enjoy the reflected happiness of others! What we have no own we may enjoy in imagination. Learning contentment with such things as we have, with gratitude for whatever we receive (being always conscious that we may receive more than we deserve) we shall always have a happy Christmas because a Christian one.

Let us be careful that nothing on this side of purified enjoyment be suffered which is unchristian, whether we eat or drink, play or plan, at home or with others let all be done in the name of Christ.

The necessity of imitating the beneficence of Christ to make our Christmas Christian was next dwelt upon by the speaker. We should all be poor and minister to the sick and thus bring joy to them and ourselves.

Make the festival the season of growth in all the generous and truthful love of our fellow men. Let it appear in business, in political life and in seasons of adversity. A permanent growth will glorify Christ more than a temporary enthusiasm. The Christians Christmas is a day for hearts as big as the race is multitudinous and as many sided as the race's needs are multiform. In all this we have Christ's pattern and Christ's command so clear and profound that we can call nothing that is destitute of this a Christian Christmas at all. The Christians Christmas is

THE CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS.

It has been well said that real civilization is tested by what we do for the children, and more and more, every year, is attention to them growing. This Christmas the whole world is bending down to bless the children. * * * We cannot do better than give up the Christmas to them unless it be to keep the Christmas humor toward them all the year through. We can read the future in the lines which child-character is assuming around us. As sure as the race lives their lives are the traceries of prophecy now and history hereafter. We may begin to do more for our children in the family, the Sunday school and the church than ever before. This would be a golden fruit to pluck off our Christmas trees! Then hang up the stockings and socks, even the little "wee" one that has never yet seen a Christmas. It can't hold much, but all the other children will be waiting to put something in it. Everything that makes them happy should do done, but nothing that is harmful. The cultivation of social feelings and family virtues is our duty. The world must pay deference to Home to day.

To make a real Christmas for the children we must satisfy the body so far as possible, we must stimulate the mind; we must insist upon generosity and every virtue and teach them of Christ. It is not Christian to stuff them with candies or delight them with novelties, or surround their simplicity with jewelry or even to love them them effusively than common and welcome them behind your newspaper (that hidden wall of partition for the busy man's home hours), nor even to submit to the buffeting and pullings of the bald-headed tyrant from "No-man's land," nor question the wee girl where she got those eyes of blue and carry about a merry pack on your shoulders as Luther did.

But the Christian Christmas for your children you must make for your children with an open Bible and quiet talk about the blessed Savior, and lingering explanations of the great mission of love which origin to-day. Let there be earnest prayers that the Christ child may be born in each one of the family circle, and that the life of the next year may be far more worthy of the heavenly guest that comes to stay wherever there are hearts open to receive Him, and will make one at our daily board the whole year round. All this will soften and satisfy and sanctify. This will help to make this Christmas last with scarcely diminished stock of goodness and good feeling till the next one comes with the new details which belong to every household's yearly experience.

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THAT BANK CONSPIRACY.

The Arrangements to "Tap" the Uniontown National Bank—Facts Elicited at the Hearing.

The Uniontown *Genius of Liberty* of this week gives the following report of the hearing in the conspiracy case: The hearing of Daniel Downer, Edward Northam and James Scott, before Justice Holmes, came off on last Saturday, December 16th, for conspiracy to rob the National Bank of Fayette county. The Commonwealth was represented by District Attorney Lindsey, W. A. Galley, Esq., and D. Boyd, Esq., and the prisoners by William Reardon, Esq., of Pittsburgh, and W. J. Rush, Esq., of Uniontown. A number of witnesses were called, and from the weight of their testimony it was evident to all that a conspiracy had been entered into by a number of persons to rob the Fayette County Bank. It was in evidence before the Justice that Daniel Downer, of Pittsburgh, arrived at this place on Tuesday, December 5, 1876, and immediately after his arrival commenced negotiations for a wagon and a pair of horses (for which he promised fifteen thousand dollars), for the purpose of carrying away the spoils and conspirators after the consummation of the robbery. It was also in evidence that Downer and others on that day had taken a view of the front and back of the building in which the National Bank of Fayette county is kept. Evidence was further elicited that on Friday following, being December 8th, as late as 5:30 P. M., arrangements were still in progress to complete the scheme by Downer and another of the conspirators, whose name is not known, but is described as a tall man with a heavy mustache. The substance of the testimony before the justice relative to this last interview was that the strange man, who appears to have not been noticed in Uniontown until that day, inquired in the presence of Downer relative to the location of the bank building, the number of persons residing in the building, the size of the keyholes of the vault and safe, and whether the family who resided in the building kept a dog. After the closing of the testimony and the arguments on both sides by counsel, two of the prisoners, Northam and Scott, were discharged by the Justice, and Downer, in default of bail, was remanded to prison to await his trial at March Sessions, 1877. Northam, however, was held on a process from the Court for selling liquor in Uniontown in 1875 without license and to intemperate persons, and was taken before the Court and entered into recognizances with C. B. Beall as his surety in the sum of $800, conditioned for his appearance at March Sessions, 1877.

LINKNER FOUND GUILTY

Of Murder in the First Degree.

Friday morning there was an unusually large attendance in the Court of Oyer and Terminer, the crowd being attracted thither to hear the verdict in the case of Henry Linkner, indicted for the murder of Henry Shafer, Judges Sterrett and Stowe occupied the bench. At fifteen minutes before ten o'clock the court received notice that the jury were ready to render their verdict, and the prisoner was brought up from the jail. The jury then came into court and announced a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree. Linkner's face evinced no emotion, and there was nothing in his demeanor to indicate that he was even surprised at the verdict. He was remanded to jail, where he will remain until he is again brought into the court room to receive his sentence. While he was being led down the back stairway into the jail, the prisoner said to Officer Nelson, who had him in charge, "You needn't be afraid of me; I am not going to try to escape." These were the only words he uttered.

Fatal Accident.

William Schmeize, aged about fourteen years, got on board a freight train somewhere down the Fort Wayne road Thursday afternoon to ride to the city, his home being with his stepfather on the South Side. A short distance below Sewickley he was put off by the conductor. Near the station he attempted to get on another freight, which was just starting, when his foot slipped and he fell, the wheels passing over one leg. He was removed to a boarding house in the town, where he died at three o'clock yesterday morning. Coroner McCallin held an inquest, and the jury gave a verdict of accidental death.

MEDICAL.

DR. WHITTIER
FOUNDER AND PROPRIETOR OF THE
KEYSTONE DISPENSARY
302 Penn Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Continues to afford reliable special treatment in all Private and Urinary Diseases. Perfect cures guaranteed. Sperma torrhœa or Seminal Weakness, resulting from self abuse, or excesses, producing nervous debility, night emissions, despondency, dizziness, dimness of sight, pimples on the face, weakness of mind and body, and dual impotency, loss of sexual power, aversion